

Crossrail 2 Stakeholder Forum

I am delighted to be here today to speak to you about Surrey and to tell you why Crossrail 2 is important to us.

I would first like to put Surrey into some context

Surrey is a significant economic power in its own right. It has an economy worth over £35 billion, greater in fact than Birmingham and Leeds combined.

Like London Surrey is a net contributor to the Exchequer.

This is partly because Surrey enjoys an enviable location. We are on the edge of London, with both Heathrow and Gatwick airports on our borders.

One third of the M25 runs through Surrey and much of the South East and London is within easy commutable distance.

In Surrey we also enjoy a wonderful natural environment; Surrey is the most wooded county in England and 73% of Surrey is designated as green belt.

We also have a superb heritage, large areas designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, highly rated schools, a great quality of life and are consistently rated as one of the best places to live in the country.

That's my sales pitch!

So why is Crossrail 2 important to Surrey?

In principal we are conditional supporters of economic growth; our aim being to remain globally competitive and to create new jobs and grow our economy.

I say conditional supporters, as economic growth can only be delivered and can only be sustained *if* we provide appropriate infrastructure to first stimulate economic growth and to then support it sustainably going forward.

It is critical therefore that we:

- Plan for economic growth
- Plan for our forecast rises in population
- AND plan for the strategic infrastructure required to support and sustain this. Such strategic infrastructure includes:
 - Education provision, health care, strategic housing
 - AND of course transport infrastructure

In Surrey's view key strategic transport infrastructure includes important schemes such as Crossrail 2, as this will help facilitate and support economic growth and help us to mitigate its impact.

Crossrail 2 is a regional transport project that could benefit Surrey and other areas across the south, by unlocking jobs and the potential for economic growth.

So what could Crossrail 2 do for Surrey?

131,000 Surrey residents commute into London every day, with tens of thousands commuting from London into Surrey.

Recent figures have placed four Surrey train services as the most overcrowded peak train services in England and Wales.

As passenger numbers rise the current rail network will simply be unable to cope. Given this and coupled with the need to plan for economic growth, we urgently need strategic transport schemes to help us deliver our ambition.

Our residents want faster and more frequent rail services and we believe Crossrail 2 could benefit Surrey in two main ways:

Firstly, and most obviously, it could provide new direct connections from Surrey stations with more frequent and faster links into central London.

Secondly, it has the potential to release much needed capacity on the South West Main Line into London Waterloo. This means that most areas in Surrey should see the benefits of improved connectivity into London.

We have work underway that will:

- Identify the optimum configuration of Crossrail 2 services for Surrey, and
- Help us identify the best use of released capacity.

This will help us determine the best opportunities to deliver new jobs and economic growth.

So what are we asking for?

Of course, we'd like to ensure that Surrey receives as much benefit from Crossrail 2 as possible. Overall we want to get the best deal for Surrey's residents; you want the best deal for London residents. We don't think that these aims are mutually exclusive.

Our commitment is to continue to work with TfL, Network Rail and the Crossrail 2 team on developing the scheme and identifying opportunities in Surrey.

We welcome the early engagement that we have already had and we hope that this dialogue will continue so that we can deliver our ambition and the transport infrastructure to support it.

Thank you.