

## **Strategic Planning, Housing and Regeneration Development**

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Our ref: TP/54

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Valentina Licata,  
Office of Rail Regulation,  
One Kemble Street,  
London,  
WC2B 4AN

Dear Valentina,

### **CONSULTATION ON NETWORK RAIL'S STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN FOR CONTROL PERIOD 5.**

Thank you for giving Great Yarmouth Borough Council the opportunity to comment on Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for Control Period 5. Please accept this officer level response on behalf of the Council.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council strongly supports Norfolk County Council's recently published Norfolk Rail Prospectus which sets out the rail improvements that the County Council and its partners see as being needed in order to ensure the continued economic success of the county and deliver the jobs and housing growth that are planned for the area. The prospectus was agreed following a number of studies which provided the evidence base for the document. Consultation was carried out with a range of partners including the rail industry, businesses and local authorities.

The Rail Prospectus recognises the need for strategic rail improvements across the eastern region in order to bring economic benefits to Norfolk. Great Yarmouth Borough Council therefore welcome the proposals in Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for CP5. However, we would like to see stronger commitment to delivering real benefits between 2014 and 2019 with plans to progress these measures in order to deliver improvements during CP6.

Therefore, our priorities to be delivered during CP5 are as follows:

- Commitments to actually delivering line speed upgrades and real improvements to journey times on the Great Eastern Main Line before 2019. The aspiration of stakeholders along the route is to deliver journey times from London of 40 minutes to Colchester, 60 minutes to Ipswich and 90 minutes to Norwich.
- Bow Junction remodeling scheme and additional track capacity just north of Chelmsford. Ideally long loops parallel to the existing lines in the vicinity of the

proposed Beaulieu Park Station which will release additional capacity into London Liverpool Street.

- Extension of the proposed third track from Stratford to Tottenham Hale to at least Angel Road and ideally Brimsdown.
- Enhancements at Ely to allow the full range of service aspirations: Norwich to Cambridge every ½ hour; King's Lynn to Cambridge every ½ hour; Norwich to Peterborough (onwards to Liverpool) every hour; Ipswich to Peterborough every hour; and increases in the numbers of freight trains from the East Coast ports.
- Renewal and maintenance works to ensure reliable journeys, with a particular emphasis on improving reliability on the Great Eastern Main Line.
- Important, smaller, more local improvements (which might not be specifically named in the spending programme, but could be developed and delivered during CP5 using funding streams identified for such measures): This would include improvements to the condition of stations and their environs with the main priority being Great Yarmouth station.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on Network Rail's plans for Control Period 5. We hope to see further commitment towards real improvements on the wider network in order to bring much needed economic benefits not only to Great Yarmouth but to Norfolk and the eastern region as a whole.

If you wish to discuss any of the comments made in this representation then please do not hesitate to contact me using the details above.

Yours sincerely

William Gilder  
**Planning Assistant (Policy)**