

Caroline Pidgeon AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London, SE1 2AA

Rob Brighthouse
Chiltern Railways
2nd floor, Western House
Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP20 2RX

6 November 2014

Dear Mr Brighthouse,

I am writing on behalf of the London Assembly's Transport Committee to set out our response to Chiltern Railway's consultation on the proposed changes to its draft timetable.

This response draws on our previous work on rail services in London including our response to Network Rail's London and South East Market Study Draft consultation. Further details of all our work can be found online at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/transport>

Consultation

The information available on Chiltern Railway's website fails to make it clear to passengers how they will be affected by the proposed changes to the timetable. The Committee recommends that clear information on specific changes is made available on Chiltern's website and at individual stations.

Overcrowding

Recent estimates suggest that London's population will approach ten million by 2030¹. This would place huge demands on London's rail infrastructure and could mean that overcrowding could be worse than previously forecast.

Growing employment in London will also need to be supported. There are forecast to be 850,000 more jobs in London by 2036 and the distribution of employment in London makes rail an increasingly popular choice of transport for commuters from both within and outside London (people living outside the capital hold around one in six London jobs — 800,000 jobs in 2011). It is therefore essential for London's economy that rail continues to be an attractive way of getting to work.

Increasing the frequency of rail services into London would provide more capacity and help reduce future overcrowding. The Committee would urge Chiltern Railways to consider this point when making changes to its timetable.

Issues around specific services

Assembly Members and the Mayor of London have previously raised concerns about the availability and frequency of Chiltern services through Sudbury stations. In relation to the current consultation, the Committee has received further representation to suggest that very little change to Sudbury

¹ Mayor of London, 2020 Vision, p. 12

services is being proposed. We would urge Chiltern to reconsider how you can deliver improvements for passengers in this area.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Pidgeon
Chair of the Transport Committee