

## Call for evidence: future of rail in London

May 2018

The London Assembly Transport Committee has launched an investigation into the future of rail in London, to consider how rail capacity, frequency and reliability can be improved, and what infrastructure improvements are needed to ensure London's rail services are fit for purpose over the coming decades.

This paper invites organisations and individuals to submit views and information to the committee on the investigation, giving you the opportunity to inform our work and influence our recommendations. We pose a number of key questions to be answered. Our investigation will focus on National Rail Services into and within London, including those delivered by TfL Overground.

### Demand for rail services

There is a high demand on London's rail network. National rail services are vital for people travelling from outside London into the city, and for people travelling from areas such as south London into the centre. National rail services allow over half a million people to travel into central London every working day.<sup>1</sup>

Demand on the National Rail network is forecast to grow. Travel to central London on the National Rail network in the morning peak is set to rise by at least 50 per cent by 2041.<sup>2</sup> The Mayor's Transport Strategy states, that without

further action, by 2041, 67 per cent of travel on National Rail in the morning peak would be in crowded conditions.<sup>3</sup>

### Investment in the rail network

Network Rail is funded by the Department for Transport in five-year cycles which are called control periods. Planning for Control Period 6 (CP6) from 2019 to 2024, is currently underway. One of the key focuses in CP6 is going to be on preparing and developing for the Digital Railway Programme. The other significant feature of CP6 is that the Government is creating a rolling programme of investment which moves away from investing in enhancements in the rigid five-year cycles of Control Periods.<sup>4</sup>

### The Mayor's priorities

The Mayor's Transport Strategy sets out a range of proposals for rail in London. Priorities include: delivery of the Thameslink Programme; delivery of the Brighton Mainline upgrade; devolving suburban rail services to Mayoral control; delivery of the West London Orbital link; and delivery of Crossrail 2.

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<sup>1</sup>Mayor's Transport Strategy, March 2018

<sup>2</sup>Mayor's Transport Strategy, March 2018

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<sup>3</sup> Mayor's Transport Strategy, March 2018

<sup>4</sup> Note that operations, maintenance and renewals activities will still be scheduled within the Control Periods.

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### Key questions

Questions we are seeking to address in this investigation include:

1. Currently, what are the main challenges for London's rail network?
2. What are likely to be the future challenges for London's rail network over the next two decades?
3. How is demand on the rail network likely to change over the coming decades?
4. What rail and station improvements would bring most benefits to Londoners?
5. To what extent does the Mayor's Transport Strategy address London's future rail needs?
6. To what extent does Network Rail's plans for Control Period 6 address London's future rail needs?
7. What impact will the Digital Railway Programme have on London's rail network? What are the challenges of implementing this programme?
8. What opportunities and challenges will the Government's new Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline (RNEP) bring for rail enhancements in London?
9. What examples of innovative approaches to improving the frequency, capacity and reliability of rail services, could be applied to London?

### How to contribute to the investigation

We welcome submissions from any organisations and individuals with views and information to share on this topic. Submissions should aim to address any of the questions outlined above, and other issues that are relevant to the scope of the investigation. We are keen to hear from rail users, organisations delivering rail services, businesses, London boroughs, campaigners, transport experts and anyone else with an interest in this topic. To contribute, please send submissions to the Committee by the deadline of **31 July 2018** using the details below.<sup>5</sup>

Email submissions	TransportCommittee@london.gov.uk
Postal submissions	Grace Pollard, London Assembly, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA
Further information	020 7983 6597
Media enquiries	020 7983 4228

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<sup>5</sup> We will publish written submissions online unless they are marked as confidential or there is a legal reason for non-publication. We may be required to release a copy of your submission under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, even if it has been marked as confidential.

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### About the Committee

The Transport Committee examines all aspects of the capital's transport system in order to press for improvements for Londoners. The Committee monitors how the Mayor's Transport Strategy is being implemented, and scrutinises the work of Transport for London and other transport operators.

#### Committee Members

- Caroline Pidgeon, Chair (Liberal Democrat)
- Florence Eshalomi, Deputy Chair (Labour)
- Shaun Bailey (Conservative)
- Tom Copley (Labour)
- David Kurten (UK Independence Party)
- Joanne McCartney (Labour)
- Steve O'Connell (Conservative)
- Keith Prince (Conservative)
- Caroline Russell (Green)
- Navin Shah (Labour)