

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the future of south London's suburban railways	
Contributor	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from discussions held on the future of south London's suburban railways at the Committee's meeting on 10 March 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet consider the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out below and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to respond.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.1 On 10 March 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report and a presentation on the Centre for London's research into *Turning South London Orange* as part of a broader discussion about the future of South London's suburban railways. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.2 The Committee welcomes the detailed work carried out to develop the proposals in *Turning South London Orange*. The Committee also noted the publication that same day of two significant reports from the National Infrastructure Commission on the strategic case for additional large scale transport in London and the south east¹.
- 3.3 Most significantly, the Committee recognised the specific opportunities for Lewisham including the potential for:
- additional services on the Hayes Line creating a 10 minute Overground service
 - additional services between Lewisham and Victoria
 - a new interchange at Brockley Station between the East London Line and services between Lewisham and Victoria
- 3.4 At the same time, TfL and DfT have launched a joint prospectus, which responds to such demands from boroughs. The prospectus outlines a new approach to rail passenger services in London and the south east, and is seen to pave the way for a wider roll-out of London Overground services.

¹ [Transport for a World City](http://tinyurl.com/je87su3) and [Review of the Case for Large Scale Transport Investment in London](http://tinyurl.com/je87su3) available at: <http://tinyurl.com/je87su3>

- 3.5 It is envisaged that new Overground routes will be planned as part of the re-franchising of existing routes and services. The first opportunity is therefore likely to be with the re-franchising of the south eastern network in 2018.
- 3.6 The Committee believes that further engagement with the public and key stakeholders will be necessary to develop future proposals and plans for improving the rail network in order to best serve the interests of south east London in the face of the huge and growing demands on the current south east London rail infrastructure.
- 3.7 The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet engage with officers to advance a proactive corporate approach to the future of south London's rail services and that this should give particular consideration to the issues identified in *Turning South London Orange* and other key strategic documents such as those reported by National Infrastructure Commission.
- 3.8 The Committee recommends that the Council should develop plans to address those key points raised with the Committee by the Centre for London, which include:
- a clear statement of the needs and priorities of the Lewisham area
 - the feasibility of items identified in the *Turning South London Orange* report and in TfLs proposals
 - consultation by the rail industry with stakeholders and identification of all relevant projects
 - the optimal time window for project delivery needs to be identified and progressed
 - consideration of the options for establishing a joint programme to implant the Lewisham area as a strategic planning priority for future south central and south eastern rail investment projects
- 3.9 The Committee also recommends that the Council takes a proactive position on the future of rail services on the Thamelink route (through Catford and Bellingham) and ensures that the running of at least four trains an hour forms part of the negotiations (with TfL or others) for the future franchise of the line beyond 2020.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there will be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

Background papers

The future of South London's Suburban Railways, report and presentation on Turning South London Orange (<http://tinyurl.com/zzj2kjd>) considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 March 2016.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact **Timothy Andrew**, Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager (**02083147916**).

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