

Sent: 24 December 2015 10:30

To: Shaw Secretariat

Subject: Hampshire County Council response to the Shaw report consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Below is the formal response to the consultation on the Shaw Report from Hampshire County Council. It has been approved by the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

Hampshire County Council welcomes the publication of this scoping study published for the 'Shaw Report'. The County Council wishes to engage constructively in the process and contribute to a robust review, leading to a responsive network serving local needs across the Country.

The Council has no particular comments on the specific questions asked in the document. However, it would wish to establish the principle that, in the future, Network Rail or successor bodies should have a duty to engage constructively with local transport authorities, including Combined Authorities and voluntary groupings of authorities, to understand and respond to local needs and demands, in particular where this supports local economic growth. Furthermore, the bodies representing these localities should have the ability to influence (and support) investment decisions by Network Rail. Ultimately, it is essential that there is proper democratic accountability within the governance arrangements, given the level of public money that will be invested.

It is also important that Network Rail has sufficient funding for the design and development of future schemes and investment programmes, including provision to support the development and delivery of schemes to meet legitimate local aspirations.

Ideally, these duties would extend to Train Operating Companies too; and while this may extend beyond the scope of this review, it may be something that the report could acknowledge.

Kind regards

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