

The Future Shape and Financing of Network Rail: The Scope Consultation

Response by Essex County Council

Date: 10 December 2015

5. How effectively are customer needs and expectations met by Network Rail at present?

Although Essex County Council [ECC] has a good working relationship with Network Rail at present there are some areas (particularly around route improvements) where we feel that relationship could be more effective. One way of achieving this would be for local authorities to have more of a say in how Network Rail and the Rail Franchises are run.

8. Is there a case for changing the route structure and what are the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to disaggregating the network, for example on the basis of:

- **physical, political or economic geographies?**
- **service type, e.g. commuter services, inter-city services and regional services?**

There is a case for changing the route structure along economic geographies but also to reflect wider devolution of the transport network for example alignment with Sub-Regional Transport Boards.

Whatever structure is considered appropriate, closer partnership working with customers and stakeholders is essential.

13. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Network Rail's current approach to planning enhancements?

Network Rail's current approach to planning enhancements is not joined up enough with the work of local transport authorities.

Planning enhancements must be more efficient, on time and within budget with minimum disruption to rail users. This is essential for any project in which local authority funding is provided.

14. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Network Rail's current approach to delivering enhancements?

Delivering enhancements must be more efficient, on time and within budget with minimum disruption to rail users. This is essential for any project in which local authority funding is provided.

15. How well do the current delivery and planning processes work for projects of different sizes?

A new approach is required for small scale projects.