

Sir Merrick Cockell  
Chair of the Crossrail 2 Growth Commission  
Crossrail 2  
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17 December 2015

*Dear Sir Merrick,*

CBI London welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Crossrail 2 Growth Commission's consultation.

Across the UK, the CBI speaks on behalf of 190,000 businesses of all sizes and sectors which together employ nearly 7 million people, about one third of the private sector-employed workforce. In London, infrastructure investment is a key business issue and a recent CBI/ CBRE survey found London's transport infrastructure as the top priority for firms ahead of the mayoral 2016 election<sup>1</sup>. In addition 94% of businesses see the quality of infrastructure as a decisive factor when planning future investment<sup>2</sup>. Ensuring Crossrail 2 is developed so that it supports businesses as well as passengers creating homes, jobs and prosperity is therefore key.

#### The strategic role of Crossrail 2

#### **Do you agree with the analysis of national/ regional economic trends which are integral to Crossrail 2's business case?**

*As some employees move further out of the city, reliable commuter routes to bring them into work are key*

As some employees are forced to move further out of the capital due to rising housing costs, getting people from London's outer regions and from the wider country into London quickly and affordably is key. Increasing house prices are negatively impacting firms' ability to recruit and retain staff and the CBI/ CBRE London Business Survey found 32% of businesses saying that they are unable to offer flexible part-time employment due to the time/cost of the commute into London for employees who cannot afford to live locally. Similarly almost a third of firms said that employees are moving away from the local area and therefore having to leave their jobs as housing costs are too high. Transport connections are vital for commuters and Crossrail 2 will play an important role in facilitating these journeys.

*Crossrail 2 needs to be viewed as a 'national' project*

Highlighting the regional and national benefits of Crossrail 2 and ensuring the project supports the whole of the UK whether through transport links, jobs or supply chains is vital in getting public buy in to the project.

Crossrail 2 should be seen as a national project, supporting both the regions and the capital. Whilst the line will service greater London, it will also free up space on our national rail lines, indirectly supporting towns

<sup>1</sup> CBI/ CBRE London Business Survey 2015

<sup>2</sup> CBI/ AECOM Infrastructure Survey 2015

and cities such as Cambridge, Southampton and Woking. Crossrail 2 will also play a vital role in providing seamless connections from the new High Speed Rail line. 70% of high speed rail journeys will either start or end in London and so new infrastructure to support the influx of passengers will be vital.

The development of the line should benefit the regions through job creation and supply chains something that Crossrail was successful at doing.

**Do you support a key objective of Crossrail 2, which is to ‘accommodate housing growth and regeneration across London and surrounding regions’?**

Last year CBI London’s consultation response to the 2050 Infrastructure Plan argued that it was essential that our housing needs are incorporated into our wider infrastructure plans, with one of the key objectives of the plan being to unlock housing growth via infrastructure investment. Businesses cite ‘silo working’ as a key frustration and so we therefore welcome this objective of Crossrail 2 and would be keen to work with the commission to understand how we can accommodate housing growth and regeneration across London and surrounding regions. Almost 60% of businesses said that enhancing the housing offer including quality and affordability was a top priority for them ahead of the mayoral elections. Ensuring this Crossrail 2 helps to develop our housing offering is therefore key.

The local opportunities offered by Crossrail 2

**To what extent is additional supporting infrastructure required to capitalise on the growth that Crossrail 2 could unlock?**

As well as developing the new Crossrail 2 line, Transport for London must continue with investment across the wider tube network. Crossrail 2 will be just one line a commuter may use as part of a wider journey. We must ensure that journeys are seamless with a high quality user experience felt across the whole network. There will be little point having a good quality, fast Crossrail 2 if the onward tube connections are prone to signal failure, over-crowding and delays. Constant upgrades and developments must be factored in as a priority.

*Resilient digital infrastructure and technology is key in supporting the opportunities that Crossrail 2 could provide*

Investment in our digital infrastructure and ensuring our digital connectivity is resilient will be crucial ahead of the development of Crossrail 2. The successful running of these new trains will rely significantly on digital signalling. Ensuring we invest in good quality digital technology will therefore be fundamental to how well the new line operates.

Successful delivery and potential barriers

**What potential do you think Crossrail 2 has to strengthen the employment market in your area of interest? Are any external factors needed to maximise Crossrail 2’s beneficial impacts?**

*Working with local leaders will ensure the project complements local growth strategies*

The CBI has previously highlighted how national infrastructure projects must be integrated with local regeneration plans – this should apply to Crossrail 2 also. In order to get maximum bang for the buck that will be spent on Crossrail 2 we need to ensure that the project (local stations) are aligned with local priorities so that the full benefits are realised. It is vital that when choosing the location of stations, local council leaders are fully involved in the decision making process and can ensure that the plans will complement and enhance

growth strategies for the area. This will ensure that housing, jobs and growth will go hand in hand with the new station locations.

*Crossrail 2 has the potential to boost local skills*

Crossrail 2 has a key educational role to play in the local areas that it will impact. A concerted effort is required from businesses, government and other stakeholders to foster a long term culture of skills development to maintain progress towards Construction 2025, the industrial strategy for the sector. Many firms tell us their concerns regarding a lack of a talent pipeline in the sector. Crossrail 2 can help to encourage the future work-force by engaging them throughout its development.

*Using digital connectivity to boost user experience*

As route plans are made for the new line, Crossrail 2 must also outline how they plan to utilise 'smart' technology to boost user experience and passenger satisfaction. Smart technology has the ability to join up transport journeys with other transport suppliers and will enable real time information for passengers to make informed journey decisions. Not only would this help to improve journey experience, but it could also help reduce congestion across the network.

**What are the most significant barriers to achieving any additional development opportunities that might come forward as a result of Crossrail 2?**

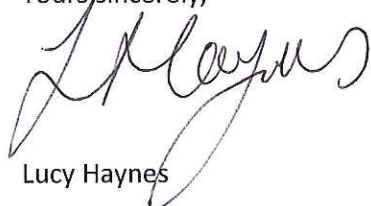
Joined up working is key to the development and success of this project. The Greater London Authority and Transport for London must engage early on with local stakeholders, businesses and local people to understand the additional development opportunities that might come forward as a result of the project.

A lack of investment in our digital connections will also negatively impact on the project. Ensuring we have quality and reliable digital signalling for the trains to operate effectively will be key.

CBI London would be delighted to discuss any of these points with the commission in greater detail.

Thank you for the opportunity to feed into the review,

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Haynes

CBI Director, London

