

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: 14 October 2005

Subject: Crossrail Reading to Maidenhead Consultation

Report of: Head of Regional Transport Planning

Recommendations:

The South East England Regional Assembly support the safeguarding of the route for crossrail from Maidenhead to Reading and urge the Secretary of State to implement the safeguarding order.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is in response to the consultation by the Department for Transport on the potential safeguarding of land in the railway corridor between Maidenhead and Reading West Junction. This would provide for the possibility of extending Crossrail services to Reading at some time in the future.

2. Comments

- 2.1 At the same time as depositing the Crossrail Hybrid Bill in February this year, Ministers indicated that they intended to consult on the possibility of safeguarding a Crossrail route to Reading. In consultation with Network Rail, an indicative set of draft plans for potential works between Maidenhead and Reading have been drawn up. The Department for Transport is currently consulting the Planning Authorities along the route for the views on the safeguarding proposals.
- 2.2 The plans cover the area from Maidenhead through to the west of Reading Station, and are wholly within current railway land, except for areas where bridges may need to be elevated to enable electrification, or very limited areas allow for site access or land needed in the construction process.

3. Conclusion

The extension of crossrail services to Reading is identified as a regional priority within the Regional Transport Strategy. The proposed safeguarding order should be supported by the Regional Assembly is a first step towards achieving this policy objective.

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