

West Anglia Routes Group

Environment 26th September 2006, item 6

Committee: Environment

Agenda Item

Date: 26th September 2006

6

Title: Establishment of a West Anglia Routes Group

Author: Jeremy Pine, Planning Policy / DC Liaison Officer (01799 510460) Item for decision

Summary

This report is about a proposal by the North London Strategic Alliance (NLSA) to establish a West Anglia Routes Group, which would seek timely upgrades to the West Anglia rail corridor to enhance capacity, improve reliability and promote growth for the benefit of all those who live and work in the London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough Corridor. This Council is invited to Associate Membership of the Group, incurring an estimated fee of £1,250 per annum to cover the Group's running costs and activities.

Recommendation

That Members agree to the principle of the Council becoming an Associate Member of the West Anglia Routes Group. Terms of membership will then be worked up by officers in association with the NLSA.

Background Papers

An introductory letter from the NLSA dated 15th August 2006 and a 4-page prospectus are attached. The prospectus has been specifically prepared by the NLSA to assist in reporting to Members.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	Improved access for all to the railway would be an aim of the Group.
Finance	Annual Associate Membership fee.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Ward-specific impacts	Rail corridor and catchment area
Workforce/Workplace	Officer time in attending Group meetings and carrying out follow-up work.

Situation

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- 1 The NLSA was formed in 1997 to achieve greater co-operation and co-ordination between public, private and voluntary sector partnerships to improve economic and social well-being in North London. The interests of the NLSA focus on the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest and local transport links, but the NLSA does work to support wider objectives for the development of London.

- 2 Seminars with key stakeholders and other interest groups were held in May and August of this year to look at establishing the West Anglia Routes Group. Following these meetings, the attached prospectus was drawn up by the NLSA. Current key events that require the Group's attention would be:

Responding to TfL's Transport 2025 strategy
Monitoring progress with the Stansted Generation 1 application
Commenting on Network Rail's Greater Anglia Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) as it emerges, and
Trying to influence decisions round the Treasury's 2007 Spending Review.

- 3 Members will note that the Group would have a broad membership base and by its nature would be London-focussed. It has already been acknowledged at the earlier meetings that reaching a consensus over some priorities and actions may be challenging. Accordingly, it is the view of officers that it would be in the best interests of local rail users for this Council to be represented on the Group

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the needs of local rail users are not taken into account.	Medium	High (potentially)	UDC to become an Associate Member of the West Anglia Routes Group