

# Consultation Progress to Date Note

July 2011





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The consultation for the Croxley Rail Link scheme to date has been an iterative process and has sought to actively involve stakeholders, the local community and businesses, as well as affected parties.

Following the completion of a stakeholder identification and mapping exercise, a series of introductory meetings were conducted to build relationships with the key stakeholders and establish, from the outset, any issues that needed to be addressed prior to any public consultation. These meetings have continued as the proposals have developed, allowing a collaborative approach to the design.

The project website [www.croxleyraillink.com](http://www.croxleyraillink.com) was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 providing details of the scheme and has allowed individuals to ask questions and join the mailing list. The launch of the website coincided with presenting material on Croxley Rail Link at a Watford Borough Council run 'consultation shop' about development projects within the area. This provided members of the public with information enabling them to understand the scheme proposals, benefits and timeframe for development.

Following the announcement that the scheme was successful in achieving a place within the DfT development pool, the main consultation period was planned to take place following the local election purdah period in May 2011. Prior to any public communication, it was crucial to manage and maintain the political support for the project. A series of briefing notes and presentations have been cascaded to elected officials throughout to ensure they were aware of the key messages of the project and to help them address any issues they may face from their electorate.

Once in the consultation period, the first activity to take place was a leaflet drop to 43,000 households within Watford, Croxley Green and Hertsmere district boundaries. The leaflet contained basic scheme information and acted as a sign post for the forthcoming public exhibitions. The document also provided details on how members of the public could provide feedback about the proposals.

The following public exhibitions were held in two locations within the vicinity of the scheme.

- **Unit 17, Charter Place Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2RU on:**
  - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 12.00 pm - 8.00 pm
  - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
  - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 11.00 am - 4.00 pm.
- **St Oswald's Church Hall, 17 Malvern Way Croxley Green, WD3 3QL on:**
  - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 12.00 pm - 8.00 pm

The exhibitions provided more detailed information about the project designs and the different funding and statutory processes for development. They also allowed members of the public to ask face to face questions of the technical experts who



were present. In total 767 people visited the exhibitions and attendees were able to complete a feedback form which contained questions about the scheme and an opportunity to provide comments. The feedback form was also available to complete online.

To advertise the consultation period and raise the profile of the scheme, press releases and interviews were given to journalists and in addition, adverts were placed in the Watford Observer and Watford Free newspapers and Heart Radio. Posters were displayed at some stations along the Metropolitan Underground line, London Overground line and St Albans Abbey line.

A number of promotional presentations have been provided to local community groups and key stakeholders allowing for further questions and feedback to be provided to the project. In addition, one to one affected party meetings are taking place with individuals affected by the Transport and Works Act Order. These meetings allow the project team to understand how the landholdings are currently being used and what impact the construction of the scheme will have on those operations, providing an opportunity to modify the designs appropriately.