



# West of England Partnership

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council



North  
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Council

South Gloucestershire  
Council

Network RUS Consultation Response  
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Date: 30 April 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Consultation on Network RUS Scenarios and Long Distance Forecasts April 2009: Response from the South West Regional Assembly**

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on the Network RUS: Scenarios and Long Distance Forecasts report. We welcome the fact that Network Rail is considering changes to demand forecasting methodologies.

We would like to add our support to comments made by the South West Regional Assembly in their consultation response.

Along with the South West Regional Assembly we have argued that the rail industry in general does not sufficiently take account of the growth implications of the Regional Spatial Strategy and historic trends in passenger growth. Over the period to 2026 the West of England sub-region will be required to provide 138,000 new homes and an equivalent number of new jobs whilst passenger numbers have doubled in the last ten years. The consultation document, however, still gives the impression that the industry is not necessarily taking these factors into account in its long term forecasting.

It needs to be made clearer how the Network RUS and geographical RUSs will relate to one another. Section 9 of the consultation document gives the impression that any new long term forecasting approach will not feed into the current round of RUSs such as the Great Western Main Line (GWML) RUS which is currently being prepared.

In addition how will the Network RUS relate to the Department for Transport's 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS)? This needs to be clearer.

We trust you will find these comments of use.

Yours sincerely,

James White  
Group Leader Transport Policy

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