

**RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION
ROED 2225**



Decision taken by individual Officer

Transport for South East Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP)

DECISION MAKER *(Name and designation)*

Tim Mills, Head of Planning, Economy and Strategic Housing in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Planning and Economy

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

To confirm that the council:

- (a) supports the TfSE Strategic Infrastructure Plan in principle;
- (b) invites TfSE to consider an interchange at Farnborough to connect the two rail lines; and
- (c) invites TfSE to consider improving direct links from the borough to Heathrow Airport.

The SIP was presented at the Strategic Housing and Local Plan Working Group on 18 July and the draft response received broad approval from elected members who attended.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

5 September 2022

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The council's response identifies alternatives to the transport projects in the SIP which is concerned with the strategic infrastructure needs for the South East. Members' concerns about local cycling and connectivity between Farnborough and Aldershot and the need for more electric vehicle charging points will be picked up in other projects, such as the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, the Building Regulations and the next Local Plan for Rushmoor.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

None.

Signed

Tim Mills, Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing

Signed

Cllr Adrian Newell, Portfolio Holder



Your reference

Contact Vincent Maher

Our reference DTC/TfSE/ SIP

Telephone 01252 398733

Transport for the South East
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
BN7 1UE

Email vincent.maher@rushmoor.gov.uk

Date 05 September 2022

Via email: tfse@eastsussex.gov.uk

Dear S r/ Madam

A Strategic Investment Plan for the South East (the SIP)

Thank you for inviting Rushmoor Borough Council to comment on this SIP.

This has been considered by Rushmoor Borough Council's Local Planning and Strategic Housing Group whose views have been taken into account in preparing this response.

We are pleased to see the SIP recognises the borough's role within South East England and have identified Farnborough as a centre for "spot interventions". As well as having one of the largest general aviation airports in the country – as identified in your 2020 Transport Strategy - we are also home to a number of major players in the aerospace and tech sectors including QinetiQ, Gulfstream, BAe, Viasat, Fluor and BMW. We will work with you and other partners to help deliver the various initiatives your draft SIP identifies for our borough including opportunities to bring these projects forward to delivery sooner than the SIP suggests.

We are concerned that the proposed western rail link to Heathrow (Project reference O1) supports a route through Reading and does not appear to go through Farnborough and Aldershot. The Council has actively supported routes which include one of the Borough's stations and believes that the Reading route given its existing connectivity is not the best approach for the South East. We would be pleased to discuss this issue further with you and to make the case for this link connecting through Rushmoor. However we are strongly supportive of the principle of a western rail link to Heathrow.

We are also concerned that both this SIP and the draft Hampshire Local Transport Plan 4 have missed an opportunity to capitalise on the borough's existing rail

infrastructure. Rushmoor is home to two railway lines. We are on the South West Main Line connecting London Waterloo with Southampton and on the North Downs Line which connects Reading with Redhill (links to Thameslink) and Gatwick Airport. However, there is no interchange between the two lines and thus our existing infrastructure is not being used to its full capacity. We invite you to work with us on assessing the viability of an interchange in Farnborough and exploring better connectivity between the two lines and the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists. Please can you let me know how we (with the support of Hampshire County Council) could approach you to include this in your final schedule of transport interventions.

We further invite you and the relevant rail operators to work with us to improve the frequency of fast rail connections from Aldershot.

Yours faithfully



Tim Mills
Head of Planning, Economy and Strategic Housing

cc. Dominic McGrath, Hampshire County Council