



Our ref: 16/0579

By email only

23 March 2016

Transport for London
Group Planning

Windsor House
42 – 50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL


www.TfL.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Brentwood draft Local Plan consultation

Thank you for your letter seeking comment from TfL Borough Planning.

As highlighted in the draft plan, there is a close relationship between the borough and Greater London areas in terms of strategic transport and movement of people, notably the Great Eastern mainline (GEML) and the A12 and A127, which form part of the TfL road network (TLRN) within London. A TfL-operated bus route also serves Brentwood. Therefore consideration of transport implications beyond the borough boundary is welcomed.

It is clear that the arrival of TfL-operated Crossrail (to be known as the Elizabeth line) services in 2019 at Brentwood and Shenfield will greatly improve the existing metro services and connectivity to Stratford and central/west London, and will provide significant capacity increase on the inner GEML in the short to medium term.

Given the Local Plan covers the period to 2033, forecasts shows that there might be capacity issues on the Elizabeth line between Stratford and Central London in the 2030's, primarily due to expected high levels of growth in inner east London. Therefore, TfL is working on the East London Transport Option Study assessing various further transport options to relieve forecast capacity issues in this period. Further interventions could include lengthening Elizabeth line trains and/or frequency enhancements; however these are not yet committed and funded.

In addition, TfL supports the principle of Network Rail-led improvements to the GEML between London and Norwich, enhanced rail linkages between London and the greater south east area being a key objective of the Mayor's Transport Strategy. We would therefore welcome policy support in the Brentwood Local Plan, as has been forthcoming in neighbouring draft local plans. Many of the enhancements proposed in the Anglia Route study to achieve better connections and journey times from London to Shenfield / Norwich would benefit Elizabeth line services also.

Due to these potential further enhancements, possible Elizabeth line capacity issues later in the plan period should not be seen as a future constraint on development potential in the borough, and the plan's proposed policy framework that focusses higher density development on the A12/GEML corridor in particular seems appropriate. This will maximise the benefits of the Elizabeth line, and is in line with the current and emerging NPPF policy which seeks to direct development to places that offer a range of alternatives for travel and densify development around commuter hubs.

In terms of the station capacity and upgrade proposals (policy 10.1), Elizabeth line stations in the borough will be owned by Network Rail but TfL will be responsible for the train operating company (TOC) concession. Both Network Rail and TfL should therefore be consulted in regards to any proposed station capacity upgrade/improvements. TfL would welcome the securing of s.106 or CIL monies to fund these improvements.

The A127 corridor is also earmarked for a degree of development in the draft plan; however it is obvious this corridor does not enjoy the same level of public transport connectivity as the A12/GEML corridor. As such there is a concern that, without improvements to public transport and given high car ownership levels in the borough, growth here may increase car commuting and add to congestion on the TRLN. Therefore development should fund the necessary improvements to public transport, walking and cycling to ensure the objectives of the NPPF, in terms of choice of modes of travel, are met. Limiting development elsewhere in the borough where it is unlikely to be viable to serve by public transport will also help in this respect.

I hope you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in providing further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Oscar Wong
Assistant Planner
TfL Borough Planning

