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Valentina Licata,  
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**Re: Response to Network Rail's strategic business plan for control period 5**

Broadland District Council supports the proposed capital investment by Network Rail. Infrastructure improvement is vital to improve services particularly between Norwich and London. The provision of a third line near Chelmsford is welcomed together with the provision of a new station in that area. Broadland District Council also hopes that infrastructure improvements will reduce the need for continuous weekend engineering work which is so frustrating for passengers.

Notwithstanding the above comments it is also considered that Greater Anglia has a significant role to play. Notably whilst infrastructure improvements will enable trains to travel at 110 m.p.h existing locomotive power cannot reach this speed. Therefore investment in new trains is an essential ingredient when negotiating the next franchise for 2014 and to this end the franchise has to be of sufficiently long duration and this requirement applies whichever company wins it.

Finally, reduced journey times are essential and Norwich to London in 90 minutes must be the aim which is endorsed by local MPs. Provision of longer trains to prevent over crowding and increase passenger comfort is another priority.

Councillor Roger Foulger  
Portfolio Holder, Communities and Housing