

**From: Michael Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director for Growth, Environment
and Transport**

To: Cabinet 15/03/21

Subject: Kent Rail Strategy 2021 – as amended by Scrutiny Committee

Key decision: Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions

Classification: Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee 15/09/20
Cabinet 25/01/21
Scrutiny Committee 10/02/21**

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All divisions

Summary:

Cabinet resolved to approve and adopt the Kent Rail Strategy 2021 at their meeting on 25 January 2021 (Decision Number: 21/00011). This decision was called-in and considered by the Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10 February 2021.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet:

(1) To amend paragraph 4.15 of the Kent Rail Strategy 2021 as follows:

‘This strategy therefore calls again on the Rail Minister to approve the operation of this last leg of the whole Thameslink service programme. At the very least this would be an initial all-day service between the county town and Blackfriars, whilst retaining the ambition and working towards a through service in due course to St Pancras and on to Cambridge allowing full interconnectivity with Crossrail and the Underground network.’

(2) That the section on page 62 of the strategy is further amended as follows:

‘Rail Minister to approve the operation of Maidstone East section of the Thameslink service programme, with an initial all-day service between the county town and Blackfriars, while retaining the ambition of a through service to St Pancras and beyond.’

Recommendation:

Cabinet is asked to note and approve the Scrutiny Committee’s amendments to the Kent Rail Strategy 2021.

Contact details

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Appendix – Kent Rail Strategy 2021 (as amended)