

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director Development Services**

Report to:	<b>Councillor W S Webb - Executive Councillor Highways &amp; Transport</b>
Date:	<b>04 May 2010</b>
Subject:	<b>County Rail Strategy</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>01740</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

The County Rail Strategy provides a framework for lobbying and support of rail schemes affecting the Lincolnshire rail network.

**Recommendation(s):**

Recommended for sign off by Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport and adopted as Council's policy for rail.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Having no policy has been considered, but leaves the County Council without a clear framework for supporting rail initiatives or various pressure groups.
2. Having a policy with funded actions was also considered but deemed inappropriate at the current time - particularly as the Council currently has no legal responsibility in regards to railways.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

Endorsement following consultation and review by Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee.

**1. Background**

The County Rail Strategy draft was presented to the Highways, Transport & Technology Scrutiny Committee in November 2009. Following consultation this draft was revised and presented again in March 2010 with subsequent recommendation for Executive Member Approval.

The strategy is based on key themes where the County Council has scope to influence decisions, such as connectivity, station environments, level crossings and

freight movements. It is aligned to the priorities within the DfT's core strategy, *Delivering a Sustainable Transport System* and integrates the recommendations from the Stern Report (environmental management) and Eddington Review (economic management).

## 2. Conclusion

With the number of railway-related proposals coming forward from a wide range of organisations, the County Council needs a strategy to identify proposals which will offer key benefits to Lincolnshire. This strategy aims to do this without committing the County Council to provide either political or financial support to any scheme.

### 3. Legal Comments:

A County Rail Strategy is permissible in the Council's role as highway authority for Lincolnshire. The Executive Councillor may make this decision provided he has the delegated authority of the Leader. – R Drabble 19/04/10

### 4. Resource Comments:

There are no financial implications for the County Council arising from this report – D Simpson 21/04/10

## 5. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

### c) Scrutiny Comments

Recommended for sign-off and adoption 30 March 2010.

### d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

The policy proofing toolkit has not highlighted any required actions.

## 6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	County Rail Strategy (April 2010)
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## 7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
CEBR Economic Value of Rail Report.	Members' library or electronically from Accessibility & Policy Unit.
County Rail Strategy (April 2010)	Members' library or electronically from Accessibility & Policy Unit.

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