

## **SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

### **BOARD MEETING ON 23 JULY 2009**

#### **ITEM 6**

#### **PRESENTATION BY NETWORK RAIL**

##### **Background**

1. [REDACTED] Principal Route Planner from Network Rail will speak to the Board about Network Rail's work in the region and how it supports the work of SEEDA and the delivery of sustainable economic development. [REDACTED] is Network Rail's representative on the Regional Transport Board.
2. [REDACTED] has been asked to cover the following areas in his presentation:
  - An overview of Network Rail's role
  - The current programme of network improvements
  - Network Rail's longer term aspirations for further network improvements
  - How Network Rail's plans help to deliver SEEDA's key objectives.
3. There will be an opportunity for questions to [REDACTED] and discussion after the presentation.
4. Making the most of the rail network, and making improvements to it, is vital for delivering the Regional Economic Strategy. For Board Members information the list of key regional priorities we identified in the Regional Funding Advice, submitted to Government in March are as follows:

##### *The Region's Gateway Function*

- Improved rail access to Heathrow Airport, principally through the delivery of Airtrack.
- Removing the capacity bottleneck at Gatwick Airport station prior to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

##### *Strategic Transport Corridors*

- Removing capacity bottlenecks at Reading station and Oxford station
- Restoring the rail link between Oxford and Cambridge via Milton Keynes (east west rail)
- Electrification of the line between Hastings and Ashford.

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