

Rail Strategy Consultation: Hertfordshire County Council

1. This response from the Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan Steering Group is confined to issues relating to Hertford North Station car park, which is within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and to sustainable travel to and from the station car park.
2. We support the principle outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the rail consultation to encourage the replacement of parking spaces in rail station car parks with bus interchanges or other sustainable transport (where it won't have a negative impact on passengers accessing that station). One of the policies in the draft Neighbourhood Plan encourages the installation of secure, covered, cycle racks within Hertford North Station car park, to increase sustainable travel to and from the station.
3. There's potential for the layout at Hertford North Station car park to be improved as the premier parking spaces are generally unused. These areas could be more productively used for cycle racks. We recommend that cycle racks are CCTV monitored to increase cyclists' confidence in using them.
4. Improving sustainable connectivity between Hertford's two rail stations, and between different parts of Hertford, could increase rail travel. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the creation of a foot and cycle path on the former railway line in Lower Bengeo. This proposal was endorsed by the conclusions in a 2018 HCC report '*Planning Appraisal for dismantled Bengeo railway land, Hertford*'.
5. As part of its commitment to improving and increasing all forms of sustainable travel, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has recently contributed to the submission of a proposal to HCC's Sustainable Travel Town Programme.
6. If discussions between HCC and train operating companies offer opportunities to increase and facilitate sustainable travel to and from Hertford North Station car park (including by bus) this would be supported by the Community Steering Group.

Community Steering Group
Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan
2nd March 2020.