

THAMES LINK 2000 PROJECT

Report of the County Secretary

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1. Purpose of the Report

To ask the Council to confirm the Environment Committee's objection to Orders associated with the Thames Link 2000 project.

2. Suggested Resolution

That the Council, whilst generally supporting the Thames Link 2000 Project, objects to:-

- (i) the use of any part of the newly constructed St Albans Inter-Change Scheme as a work site.
- (ii) the closure of the Moorgate branch without consideration of an innovative replacement service.

3. Background

A detailed account of the Thames Link 2000 Project, which provides a much needed cross-London rail link, and its implications for Hertfordshire, is set out in the Director of Environment's report to the Environment Committee on 13 January 1998 (previously circulated to all members of the Council).

The Committee at that meeting resolved to inform the Secretary of State of the County Council's general support for the Thames Link 2000 Project, but that there were objections on two points of detail, namely:-

- (i) the use of any part of the newly constructed St Albans Inter-Change Scheme as a work site.

- (ii) the closure of the Moorgate branch without consideration of an innovative replacement service.

The project itself is being promoted by an Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 and under that Act, it is a requirement that any Local Authority wishing to make an objection **must do so by a resolution of full County Council passed by a majority of the whole number of its members** (i.e. 39 or more).

Full Council confirmation of the objection would also assist in future negotiations with Railtrack, which, if not resolved through negotiation, would be pursued at any subsequent public local inquiry which may be called.

Background documents relied on by the author in compiling this report

Report to the Environment Committee 13 January 1998 (and minutes thereof).