

# INTRODUCTION



## *Introduction*

The Croxley Rail Link is a proposed diversion of the Watford branch of the Metropolitan line to Watford Junction via the former Croxley Green branch line and Watford High Street. Two new stations are to be constructed – at Ascot Road and Watford General Hospital. The proposals are currently in the design phase and are being developed in time to have trains running along the new track by 2016. As a result of the scheme the Metropolitan line route to the current Watford terminus station will be closed.



## *Need for the scheme*



South West Hertfordshire has been underperforming economically. The local economy is still £200 million per year lower than it was in 2001 and the area continues to experience significant job losses. The Regional Transport Economic Evidence Study showed Watford as having growth potential, but in an area where the cost of congestion and rail crowding is high.

South West Hertfordshire offers proximity to London, its airports and rail infrastructure, as well as the outer London balance of city-working, country-living. However, the close proximity to London has not been exploited due to lack of easy access to and within Watford.

The existing rail network fails to connect residents of Croxley, Moor Park and other settlements along the Metropolitan line to the business, leisure and employment opportunities located in Watford.

There are several strategic development projects including the planned Watford Health Campus, and Croxley & Watford business parks, that require access to an integrated public transport system allowing the surrounding local communities to benefit from the opportunities they present.

It has been recognised for a number of years that the Croxley Rail Link project would make travelling in the area quicker, easier and more convenient for people as well as unlocking economic potential for Watford and South West Hertfordshire.

The scheme is being promoted by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), with support from London Underground and Network Rail. Watford Borough Council and Three Rivers District Council are key to the project providing local input and guidance.

HCC is progressing the project to proceed through the statutory planning application process known as a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAo). This consultation forms a key part of that process providing the local communities and existing users of the line an opportunity to comment.