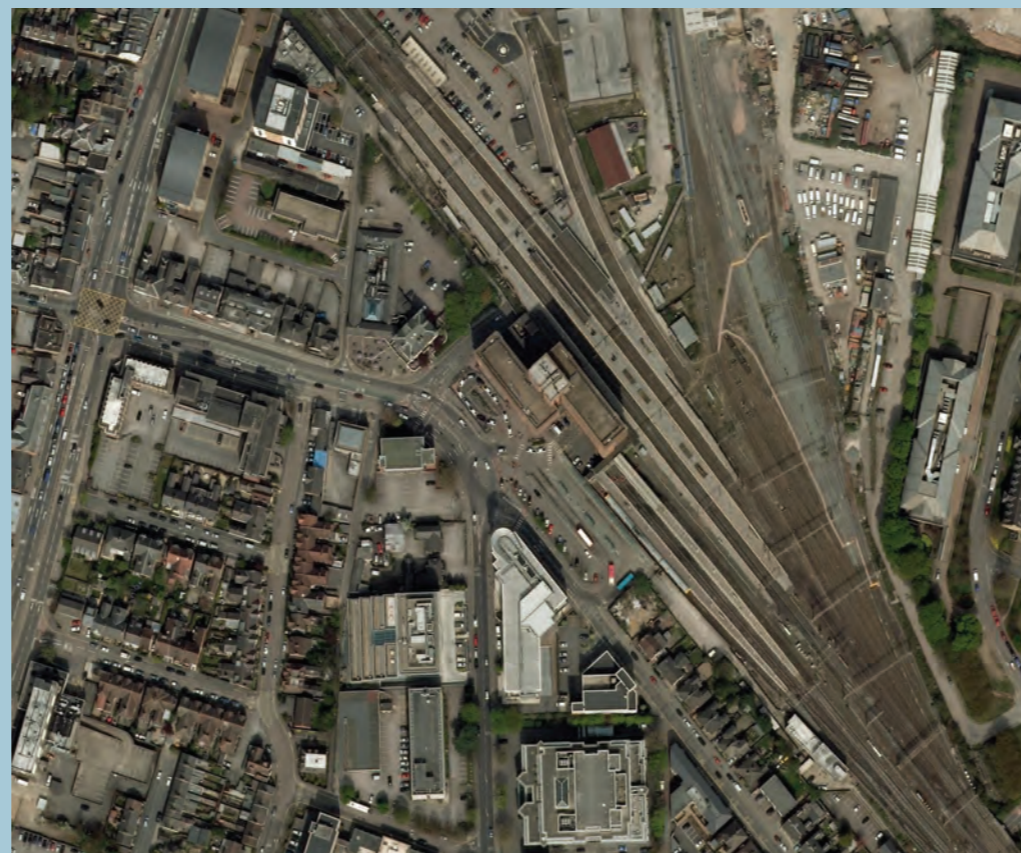


# LOCAL AREA



## **Watford Interchange**



Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and Watford Borough Council (WBC) have been developing an improvement scheme over a number of years, devised to improve the station operation and utilise the existing station layout, including vehicular access to the east of the site, opening this area for increased station parking and development. HCC is working in alliance with WBC, Network Rail and the development partners to achieve a truly integrated transport and development 'vision' for the overall site. This project is the subject of a separate major project funding process.

## **Watford Health Campus**

The Watford Health Campus is a mixed use regeneration project that is currently led by a group of organisations all with a key interest in the regeneration of the land around the current Watford General Hospital. The Campus comprises a new district general hospital, commercial, residential, retail and leisure developments with associated civil engineering works over a 68 acre site. The hospital will become a centre for specialist treatment, drawing patients from a regional catchment area.



A formal grant of outline planning permission and associated conditions was achieved on 15th July 2010.

Given the site's location, the Rail Link project provides a highly accessible route directly to the campus for both local people and those travelling from outside the borough, be that via interchange at Watford junction or travelling north from outer London.

## **Watford Business Park and Ascot Road**

The Watford Business Park is located immediately south of the Croxley Rail Link alignment as it passes Ascot Road. Whilst the highway access is of a high standard, it is congested particularly at peak hours, and for employees bus based access is constrained.

The Local Development Framework's employment topic has concluded that Watford Business Park offers the best opportunity to improve the Borough's employment offer depending on the quality of access to the site. Implementation of the rail link, with a new station proposed at Ascot Road, will provide a reliable and regular new mode of access to the area both from central Watford and from outside of Watford (via both Watford Junction and the transport connections there and the London boroughs south of Watford served by the Metropolitan line).

## **Abbey Line**

HCC and The Department for Transport want to increase the frequency of services on the local rail line between Watford Junction and St Albans Abbey stations (the 'Abbey Line'). The two organisations are currently working together to develop a scheme to enable this to happen.

The proposal is to convert the Abbey Line to light rail, which means that the line will run a tram-like service rather than traditional heavy rail. This will bring significant benefits to the travelling public; in particular a more frequent service and a timetable that is easier to remember.