

January 2012

**North London Strategic Alliance**

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## Winter 2011/12

NLSA had a busy end of 2011, continuing to make the case for North London across a range of issues.

### Supporting Growth

#### North London Housing Conference

Over 130 delegates attended the conference held on 11th November. It looked at issues around affordable rents, housing benefit caps and capital moves in the morning. The afternoon focused on driving capital investment into north London to support building new homes.

The event was delivered in partnership with North London Housing Sub Region and Home Connections.

Key note speakers included Richard Blakeway, Greater London Authority (Mayor's Housing Advisor) and David Lunts, GLA (Director of Investment & Regeneration), as well as Cabinet level representation from Barnet, Enfield, Islington and Westminster.

The event also provided an opportunity for boroughs to highlight their key development priorities.

Following this successful event NLSA is looking to run an event specifically on investment funding in the Spring.

#### Crossrail Community Infrastructure Levy

The Mayor of London is proposing a pan-London CIL on new development to provide an element of the funding for Crossrail. NLSA made strong representation at the public inquiry in November, arguing for a lower CIL rate for developments in the Upper Lee Valley. Our written submission can be found on our website.

#### Business Support

NLSA has been successful in the first stages of drawing down £500,000 of European Funding to provide support

for north London businesses. The project would be delivered by Enfield Enterprise, North London Business and Centra, providing direct support to small and medium sized businesses seeking to expand into new markets. NLSA will support work around access to borough's commissioning processes. NLSA is currently finalising the bid and should know by May if we have been successful.

### Infrastructure

#### North London Transport Lead Members' Group

At the meeting of the Transport Lead Members Group, chaired by Cllr Nilgun Canver (LB Haringey) Isabel Dedring, Deputy Mayor for Transport, was in attendance to hear about north London's transport priorities and the need for continued investment.

Isabel also discussed how north London can engage with the Mayor and confirmed that investment in the West Anglia Routes, which delivers an effective Upper Lee Valley service and strong links to Stratford, remains a priority for the GLA.

### Rail Initial Industry Plan

The NLSA responded to the Rail Initial Industry Plan (IIP) – which sets out the rail industry's view of the investment required from 2014 to 2019 and informs the Government's spending plans. The response called for investment in:

- West Anglia Routes – An infrastructure option which will provide an even interval 4 trains per hour service from Brimsdown to Stratford calling at all stations and allowing faster journeys for longer distance trains.
- Level Crossings – Part of the proposed £304m national fund should address serious safety and connectivity issues along the Lea Valley.
- London Orbital – Electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking Line and the lengthening of a range of services.
- Great Northern - Increasing service frequencies via Hertford to Moorgate.
- Stations and Interchanges – Improving

key interchanges in north London (£850k of similar funding has just been provided for lifts at Edmonton Green).

### New Trains

At a ceremony in December the Chair of London Councils and Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe, named a new class 379 train "The West Anglian".



The train naming recognises the work of the West Anglia Routes Group (co-ordinated by NLSA) to secure improvements on services from Liverpool Street through north London into Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. To date improvements have included the introduction of thirty new trains, shorter journey times, longer trains and more frequent services to Stratford.

### Decentralised Energy Network

A feasibility study for a decentralised energy network (DEN) supplying the Upper Lee Valley is underway. NLSA managed the first stage of the project for three boroughs (Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest), the GLA and key stakeholder the North London Waste Authority. This concluded in July 2011 showing the potential to provide low carbon energy, utilising either the available waste as a fuel or waste heat as an energy source, which could:

- provide low carbon, low cost energy to 10,000 homes and more than 150 key businesses;
- secure by 2026 at least 1,700 retained and additional jobs;
- cut carbon dioxide emissions by the equivalent of 9,750 homes' annual CO2 production. Council property portfolios could see 25% reductions in emissions for those buildings connected

.....and put the ULV at the forefront of energy from waste and decentralised energy production in London.

The current study, led by Enfield, will provide detailed technical and commercial

data to feed into an Outline Business Case before taking the proposal to the commercial market. The feasibility study will also investigate a further five 'satellite' schemes in Haringey and Waltham Forest.

Other elements of this phase of the project will include common planning policies safeguard the routes and facilitate delivery of the network, plus creation of a special purpose vehicle that will oversee implementation and operation of the DEN.

### **STOP PRESS: AWARD FOR WETLANDS**

You will be pleased to know that against stiff competition, Walthamstow Wetlands won the London Planning Awards (16<sup>th</sup> January), under the 'Best Conceptual Project' category. The wetlands lie in Waltham Forest, on the boundary with Hackney and Haringey. The awards were given out by Boris Johnson.

## Shared Services

NLSA co-ordinates a cross-borough efficiency programme. The project to date has netted £1.12m in savings with a further £2.2m currently projected for 2012/13.

Key Achievements to date include

- Passenger transport joint procurement: £704,000 saving
- Adults, Learning Disabilities Market

intervention: £415,000 saving

- Joint procurements projects: five underway, more being scoped

The NLSA Efficiency Programme has three main areas of work:

- Adult Social Care
- Children's services
- Procurement

A new north London category manager will be starting in February; leading sub-regional negotiations with providers of services for looked after children.

