



ROBERT NEILL MP

Bromley & Chislehurst

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Congratulations on your appointment to Managing Director of Southeastern from First Capital Connect last month. I very much look forward to working with you.

As you are no doubt aware, the Southeastern rail corridor into central London includes some of the busiest lines in the country, and of particular concern to many of my constituents is the lack of rail provision from Bromley North station. Passengers wishing to travel from either Bromley North or Sundridge Park station to central London must catch a connecting service at Grove Park, which, as I am sure you can appreciate, is both time consuming and frustrating. A frequent source of complaint is the length of time passengers often have to wait for this connecting service – upwards of half an hour, I believe – aggravating what is, for many, an already stressful commute.

As I understand it, Southeastern recently tweeted that they were running test services on the Bromley North line, and I would like to add my support to any plans Southeastern currently have of reopening the line. With growth forecasts consistently indicating that population levels are set to rise exponentially over the coming years in southeast London, I believe it is absolutely vital that we make suitable provision to reflect increasing demand. Furthermore, as you may know, Bromley town centre has, this year, been proposed in the London Plan as an Opportunity Area for the future. As such, it will undoubtedly become necessary to have another station, operating alongside Bromley South, which can transport passengers to and from Bromley and central London direct.

In my mind, improving customer satisfaction rates is one of the biggest challenges Southeastern face in the immediate future, particularly in light of their recent standing in a number of well-regarded polls. Given that you have recently been re-awarded the South Eastern franchise until June 2018 – under a pledge to add new and improved services – I believe the reactivation of this line would send out a strong message to local Southeastern passengers that you are on their side.

I would be very grateful for your thoughts on this issue, and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Bob Neill MP