

## London's Connectivity Commission: Call for Evidence

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies speaks for over a hundred local societies across London with more than 100,000 members. Our comments cover two aspects of the work of the Commission.

### **1. Interpretation of competitiveness and growth.**

In describing the outcome being sought (para 2), London's ability to remain competitive must be evaluated in terms of the overall attractiveness of living and working in London, taking full account of social and environmental factors in addition to financial rewards. In the same way, UK's long-term growth should be seen in terms of improvement to the overall quality of life, and the evaluation of infrastructure projects must take full account of their social and environmental impacts. [Thus, for example, improvements in connectivity over longer distances need to be balanced against disruptive effects of physical infrastructure on local communities, and benefits of increased air travel against a full assessment of the widespread impacts of noise.] While these principles may be obvious to many, it is important that they are given sufficient prominence if the work of the Commission is to achieve credibility beyond the business community.

### **2. Climate Change**

Because of the long-term impact of infrastructure investments on carbon emissions, any project which has the potential for increasing emissions (as will be the case with much, though not all, transport infrastructure) should be subjected to particularly critical assessment, taking account of both the cumulative impact over the lifetime of the project and the consequences for meeting long term targets. To counteract the tendency to assume that these targets can be met through compensatory reductions in emissions elsewhere, we argue that such projects should only be undertaken if the current level of emissions is clearly below the required trajectory for meeting long-term targets.

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