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**Business Breakfast Workshop**

**The importance of the West Anglia Main Line to Essex, Hertfordshire and the South East**

Monday 23 May, 9.30am-11.30am, The Gallery, Rhodes Arts Complex,
1- 3 South Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 3JG

The West Anglia Rail Line is a vital part of the region’s infrastructure and links key towns such as **Hertford, Broxbourne, Bishop’s Stortford, Harlow** and **Cambridge** as well as **Stansted Airport**, with **London Liverpool Street** and **Stratford**.

This event is an opportunity:

* *To learn more about the plans for improving the line which will also enable Stansted Airport to grow to its planned capacity and stimulate investment and development in a corridor with huge untapped potential.*
* *Help inform the West Anglia Taskforce which will put the business case for investment to Government this summer.*

The taskforce, which is led by Rt. Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP for Saffron Walden is tasked with assessing how rail connections to Cambridge and Stansted from Liverpool Street and Stratford can be improved and how investment in the line will help to spur the delivery of thousands of new homes and jobs, as well as support aspirations for the corridor to become a focus for globally important technology and bioscience-led economic growth in the “Golden Triangle” of London-Cambridge-Oxford.

If we are basing our case for investment in this line on the presumption that it will be “good for UK plc” we need a strong voice from business leaders to support this case.

We are hosting this business-focused workshop to answer the question:

***“How does investment in the West Anglia Mainline support sustainable growth in Essex, Hertfordshire and the South East?”***

**Agenda**

9.00am            **Arrival – coffee**

9.30am            **Welcome**Cllr Linda Haysey, East Herts District Council Leader and Hertfordshire LEPBoard Member (A10/M11 Growth Area Representative)

**Introduction to Business Stortford**
Cllr John Barfoot, Bishop's Stortford East

9.45am **Making the case for investment**Mark Prisk, MP for Bishop’s Stortford

10.00am **Introduction to objectives and role of the Taskforce**Cllr Kevin Bentley, Taskforce Member, Essex County Council Deputy Leader, SELEP and London Stansted Cambridge Consortium Board Member

10.15am          **Proposed improvements to the West Anglia Main Line route**a. Network Rail:Conclusions of the Anglia Route Study
b. TfL: Update on Crossrail 2 progress

10.45am          **Panel Discussion and Questions**Essex County Council, SELEP and Taskforce member: Cllr Kevin Bentley, Cabinet Member for
TfL: Chris Lynch
Network Rail: Tom Stead
Stansted Airport: Chris Wiggan
Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire LEP: Cllr David Williams

11.15am          **Conclusion and next steps**

 **PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS. TO REGISTER TO ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT:**  zoe.gordon@essex.gov.uk or lucy.gravatt@hertfordshirelep.co.uk