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## **Havering enlists Siemens to provide traffic solutions**

**Using Siemens' proven Comet UTMC traffic management and information system, the London Borough of Havering has invested further in new traffic technology as part of the Council's Network Management Strategy aimed at reducing congestion on the roads.**

The initial step will be the installation of a Siemens Siespace system and 16 Variable Message Signs along strategic routes in Romford, providing drivers with car park and travel information. Real-time updates reduce congestion, lessen driver frustration, and lead to a smoother traffic flow. Havering is also adopting eMerge, an online mapping tool, developed to enable local authorities to make the data held in Comet available to the general public over the internet so that they can check which car parks have parking spaces available.

Highlighting the benefits of the system, Siemens Systems Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger said: "Comet provides Traffic Managers with a better overview of traffic situations and enables them to automate responses to manage and alleviate congestion. Combined with the implementation of the Siespace system this will allow drivers to more easily access parking spaces in the borough."

Havering is set to experience a significant increase in population over the next decade with an inevitable rise in the number of journeys undertaken on the roads, and the new system has been brought in following the recognition that it was essential to start planning the transport strategy now to address traffic issues in the borough. Siemens' UTMC traffic management and information system will help to manage the congestion and delays caused by heavy traffic flow, which will ultimately have a positive impact on people living in the community.

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Commenting on the launch of the borough's Network Management Strategy, Councillor Michael Armstrong, Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration said: 'Most of the activities in our lives involve a journey of some sort. People being able to get around safely and conveniently, underpins the economy of the borough and the lives of individuals in the community. Adopting the strategy is a big step in this direction and will benefit everyone.'

Using the latest UTMC technology, Siemens Comet and Siespace systems provide a flexible set of traffic management tools which can be tailored to the specific requirements of any local authority in managing and reducing congestion. Implementation of flexible UTMC systems such as these allows future developments in technology to be easily integrated, maintaining an effective and efficient travel network.

**Editors Notes:**

**About Comet**

Comet, Siemens' latest generation advanced traffic management and information system, is the key component of a modern integrated traffic control centre. Comet provides co-ordination facilities across a range of traffic control systems, allowing operators to control and monitor their urban networks more easily while delivering meaningful, timely and accurate information to the travelling public.

**About Siemens Traffic Controls**

As part of the Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services (I&S) group, Siemens Traffic Controls designs, manufactures, installs and maintains a wide range of traffic engineering products and systems to enhance road safety and improve traffic flow in congested urban and inter-urban areas. In the United Kingdom, the company installs and maintains more traffic infrastructure than any other company and has 700 employees including 350 skilled service engineers dedicated every day of the year to maintaining over half of all traffic control equipment installed on the UK road network. The Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services Group (I&S) is an integrator of systems and solutions for industrial and infrastructure facilities, and global service provider for the plant and projects business covering planning, installation, operation and the entire life cycle.

**About Siemens in the UK**

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 164 years ago. The company employs 20,314 people in the UK, including about 6,500 in the manufacturing sector. Last year's revenues were £3.5 billion, including exports of £580 million, and it spent almost £75 million on research and development. As a leading global engineering company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, including the shortage of natural resources, increasing environmental care, and a growing demand for healthcare, mobility and security. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit [www.siemens.co.uk](http://www.siemens.co.uk)

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