

Rt Hon Mrs Theresa May MP

Rt Hon Mr Jeremy Corbyn MP

Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP

Rt Hon Ms Nicola Sturgeon MSP

Dear Mrs May, Mr Corbyn, Sir Vince and Ms Sturgeon,

Today we call on you, the leaders of this country's four biggest political parties, to publicly commit to building High Speed Two in its entirety – from London, through the West Midlands to Manchester, and through the East Midlands to Leeds.

We urge you to pledge to deliver Phase Two of the project and ask that you promise to support Phase 2a in reaching Royal Assent before the end of 2019, as planned. This support will provide the economies of the Midlands and the North with the certainty they so desperately need during a period of unprecedented change.

HS2 Phase Two will extend the benefits of this vital piece of infrastructure to more than 25 million people – over a third of the UK's population – across the East Midlands, the North West, the North East and Scotland. These people and places should not be denied the job and growth opportunities that HS2 brings. It must continue beyond Birmingham.

Not since the motorway-building boom of the 1960s and 70s has the UK had a chance of this magnitude to revolutionise our country's transport system. Today, like half a century ago, we need strong leadership and unwavering support for a modern transport infrastructure that works for everyone in the UK.

Communities and businesses grow faster and stronger when they're brought closer together by better transport links. As we redefine the UK's place in the world, undermining our country's connectivity risks limiting our opportunity and ambition.

Many are already seeing the benefits HS2 can bring. The confirmation of Phase One between London and the West Midlands has created 7,000 new jobs so far in Birmingham, with over 100,000 more to come around the new Curzon Street and Interchange stations. Connecting Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh will build on this, with hundreds of thousands more new jobs.

This can only happen if HS2 is finished in full, extending all the way to the communities and businesses of the Midlands and the North, linking in with Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Midlands Rail Hub.

Our country has always thrived on delivering world-leading innovation and progress. Now, more than ever, we should be proud to build Europe's largest infrastructure project. Every major project has its critics, but we must work together to reinforce the reasons HS2 is so vital to our regional economies and our national prosperity, and the unparalleled benefits it will bring for us all.

Our support must not flounder or stall. We must unite to deliver HS2 in full, and we urge you to join us by offering your vocal and unwavering support. Help make HS2 happen for everyone, and help us all achieve our full potential.

To our party leaders we say – back it, build it, benefit from it.

Yours sincerely,





Sir John Peace, Chair, Midlands Connect & Midlands Engine

Fiona Piercy, Programme Director, Midlands Engine

Maria Machancoses, Director, Midlands Connect

Cllr Judith Blake, Chair, Core Cities UK and Leader, Leeds City Council

Henri Murison, Director, Northern Powerhouse Partnership

Co-signed by:

Charlie Cornish, Group Chief Executive, Manchester Airports Group; **Nick Barton**, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport; **Karen Smart**, Managing Director, East Midlands Airport; **David Laws**, Chief Executive, Leeds Bradford Airport; **Steve Rotheram**, Mayor of Liverpool City Region; **Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell**, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester; **Cllr Ian Ward**, Leader, Birmingham City Council; **Cllr Bob Sleigh**, Leader, Solihull Borough Council and Deputy Mayor of the West Midlands; **Cllr Jon Collins**, Leader, Nottingham City Council; **Cllr Chris Poulter**, Leader, Derby City Council; **Cllr Nick Rushton**, Leader, Leicestershire County Council; **Cllr Kay Cutts**, Leader, Nottinghamshire County Council; **Cllr Philip Atkins**, Leader, Staffordshire County Council; **Cllr Roger Lawrence**, Leader, Wolverhampton City Council, Lead Member for Transport, West Midlands Combined Authority and Chair of West Midlands Rail Executive; **Cllr Qadar Zada**, Leader, Dudley Borough Council; **Laura Shoaf**, Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands; **Malcolm Holmes**, Executive Director, West Midlands Rail Executive & Director of Rail, Transport for West Midlands; **Mike Ashworth**, Strategic Director of Economy, Transport & Environment, Derbyshire County Council; **Paul Faulkner**, Chief Executive, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce; **Steve Hollis**, Chair, West Midlands Combined Authority HS2 Growth Delivery Board; **Nick Brown**, Chair, Urban Growth Company; **Matthew Hammond**, Regional Chairman, PwC and Chairman, West Midlands Growth Company; **Neil Rami**, Chief Executive, West Midlands Growth Company; **Ian Morgan**, Director, Wellglade Group & Chair of East Midlands HS2 Business Advisory Group; **Mark Cowlard**, CEO, Arcadis UK; **Jonathan Moore**, City Executive for Greater Manchester and North, Arcadis UK; **Mark Reynolds**, Chief Executive, Mace; **John Joyce**, Managing Partner, Addleshaw Goddard; **Ben Andrews**, Managing Director North, HSBC; **Miles Rothbury**, Global Relationship Director - Large Corporates, North, HSBC; **Andy Koss**, Chief Executive, Drax Power Limited; **Chris Fraser**, Chief Executive, Sirius Minerals; **Tim Pile**, Chair, Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP; **Elizabeth Fagan**, Non-executive Director and former MD Boots UK and Chair, D2N2 LEP; **David Frost CBE**, Chair Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Enterprise Partnership; **Mandip Rai**, Chief Executive, Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership; **Graham Wynn OBE**, Chair, The Marches LEP; **Mark Stansfeld**, Chair, Worcestershire LEP; **Ursula Lidbetter**, Chair, Lincolnshire LEP; **Scott Knowles**, Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire).