

Birmingham Airport Connectivity

Better rail access to Coventry, UK Central and
Birmingham Airport, from across the UK



Midlands Connect
Transport | Investment | Growth

**MIDLANDS
ENGINE**

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Sir John Peace, chairman of Midlands Connect

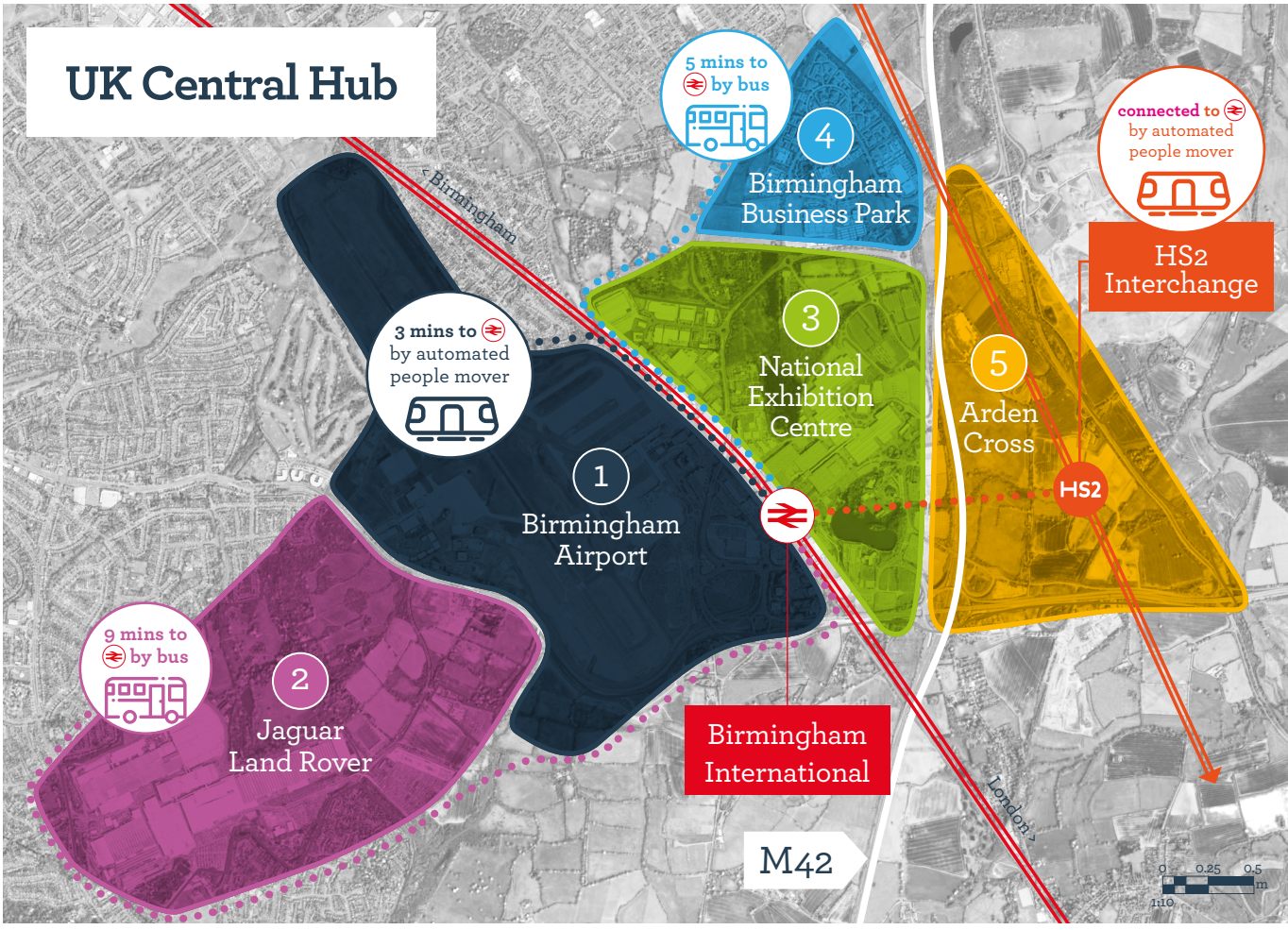
“As we work to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19; embarking on an ambitious and successful path post Brexit, our international connections and relationships with other UK regions will become more important than ever. Providing a step change in rail connectivity to the city of Coventry and Birmingham International railway station, our proposals will enhance access to Birmingham Airport, the West Midlands’ gateway to the world, as well as the nearby NEC, Resorts World and Jaguar Land Rover. Integrating these upgrades into the existing network, with the arrival of HS2 at the adjacent Interchange station, will generate unparalleled investment and growth, creating jobs, thousands of new homes and more places to work, live and relax. Our proposals will benefit workers, residents and travellers, bringing two million more people to within a direct rail journey of these exciting destinations.”



State of play

Birmingham International railway station is at the epicentre of a number of nationally-important assets including; Birmingham Airport, the second busiest airport in the UK outside London, which last year connected more than 13 million passengers to over 150 destinations worldwide; the National Exhibition Centre; Resorts World arena and shopping park; and Jaguar Land Rover’s Solihull plant. Close by, the arrival of the HS2 Interchange station is stimulating huge investment and regeneration. To realise the full benefits of this transformational opportunity, the Urban Growth Company is promoting investment in 140 hectares of mixed-use development at ‘UK Central’, set to create up to 5,000 new homes, 650,000 square metres of commercial space and support 70,000 new and existing jobs.

With more people living and working close by, steps must urgently be taken to improve rail access to Birmingham International station. Midlands Connect’s Birmingham Airport Connectivity scheme will support growth, promote sustainable transport choices and open up the airport, UK Central and the NEC, as well as the city of Coventry to a number of towns and cities in the Thames Valley, East Midlands and North East. Without these enhancements, the already full rail network will struggle to cope with demand and more passengers will turn to polluting and congestion-creating private vehicles to reach their destinations.



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| 1 Birmingham Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7,000 employees | 3 National Exhibition Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports 29,000 jobs (full time equivalent) | 5 Arden Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 140 hectares• 5.95 million ft² of commercial space• 1,600 new homes planned• 7,000 new jobs (masterplan being developed) |
| 2 Jaguar Land Rover <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10,000 employees | 4 Birmingham Business Park <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 150+ businesses• 10,000 employees | |

Once complete this scheme will:

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|--|---|
| | Enhance connectivity to the Midlands from across the UK |
| | Widen access to HS2 |
| | Increase network capacity |
| | Support business and employment growth |
| | Boost reliability and resilience |

The scheme

Our improvement plans will enhance access to Birmingham Airport, UK Central and Coventry by rail, utilising the extra network capacity created by the arrival of HS2, as well as double tracking sections of the route south of the airport between Leamington and Coventry to drive immediate capacity and reliability benefits.

This intervention, combined with modest timetable changes, will enhance connections to Coventry and Birmingham International from the Thames Valley, East Midlands, Yorkshire and the North East; increasing the frequency of services from Leamington, Banbury, Oxford and Reading from one to two trains per hour and opening up new direct paths to and from Derby, Sheffield, Doncaster, York, Darlington, Durham and Newcastle.

Benefits of double tracking

Upgrading the single track railway line between Leamington and Coventry, one of the last remaining single track stretches in the region, will hugely enhance the reliability and punctuality of journeys across the Midlands and beyond. At present, delays to one service impact trains along the whole length of the track, which in turn causes a domino effect of hold ups, disruption and congestion across the network. Removing this bottleneck will drive significant performance benefits, reducing delays and improving network resilience.

The core scheme will involve double-tracking the southern end of the route, however Midlands Connect and West Midlands Rail Executive are examining the case for double tracking this entire stretch of railway - an intervention that would allow for better local services to stations such as Kenilworth and increased freight capacity.

It will also create a new direct rail link between Birmingham Moor Street, Warwick Parkway Solihull and Oxford.

The scheme will provide new access to the airport by rail for a number of locations across the country which don't currently have a direct service. This will make access to the airport vastly more convenient for business travellers and those with luggage in tow, increase the attractiveness of flights from Birmingham Airport to a host of new passengers and bring millions of people closer to UK Central's leisure, business and tourism destinations by public transport. As well as promoting better connectivity across the UK, these plans will also provide crowding relief to local passengers and commuters travelling on the congested Birmingham to Coventry rail corridor.

This scheme is the most developed of seven projects collectively known as Midlands Engine Rail, a £3.5 billion package of improvements to revolutionise the region's rail network, creating space for more than 700 extra passenger trains each day.



Councillor George Duggins, leader of Coventry City Council

"There's no doubt that Coventry as a business and leisure destination has a huge amount to offer. This project will create direct rail links between Coventry and the cities of Derby, Sheffield, York and Newcastle, linking over two million more people to the city's sports venues, museums, workplaces and tourism hotspots. As we move towards a carbon-zero economy and bounce back from the impact of COVID-19, it is vital that these improvements go ahead."

Direct rail access to Birmingham International and Coventry for **2.2 million people**



New connections to Derby, Sheffield, Doncaster, York, Darlington, Durham and Newcastle



Twice as many services to Leamington, Banbury, Oxford and Reading
(one -> two trains per hour)



New direct service Birmingham Moor Street -> Solihull -> Warwick Parkway -> Oxford

+32 extra trains per day



Double tracking the railway between Leamington and Coventry

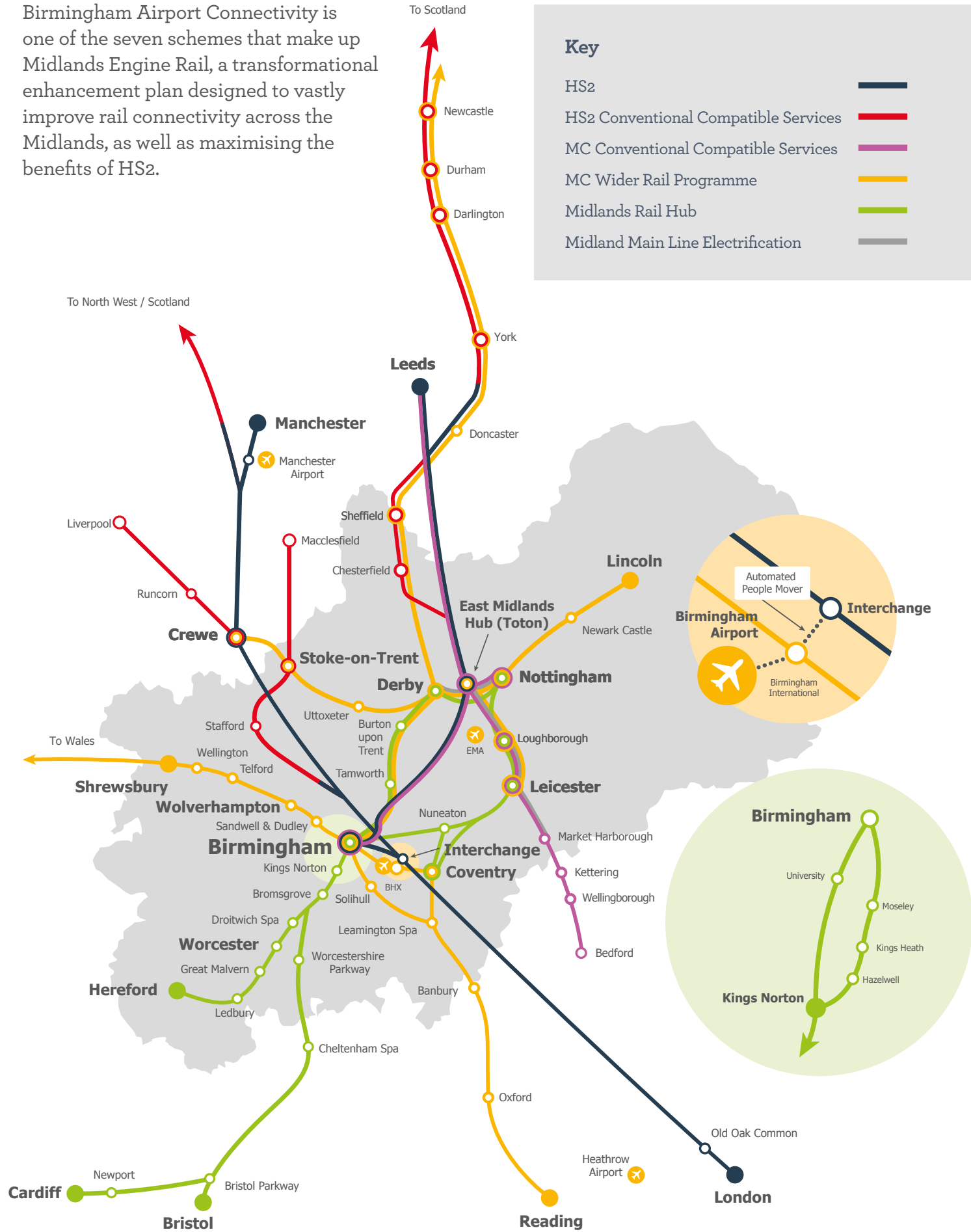
Birmingham Airport Connectivity



Route based on current business case and subject to change/amends at a later stage

Midlands Engine Rail

Birmingham Airport Connectivity is one of the seven schemes that make up Midlands Engine Rail, a transformational enhancement plan designed to vastly improve rail connectivity across the Midlands, as well as maximising the benefits of HS2.



Next steps

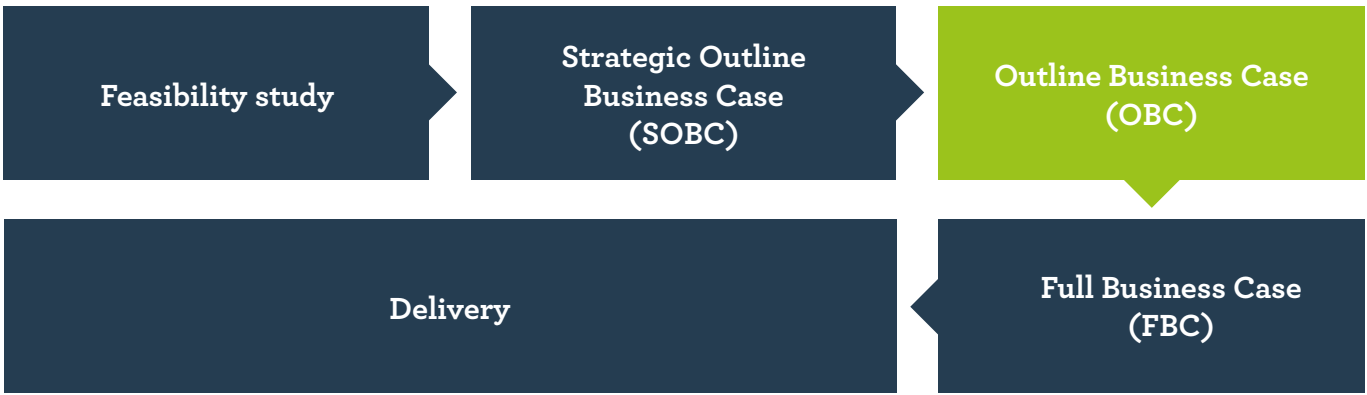
Midlands Connect submitted an Outline Business Case for the Birmingham Airport Connectivity rail scheme to the Department for Transport in June 2020, the business case was produced in partnership with Network Rail.

We now ask that the Government provides the £20million needed to create a full business case for the project, which will include detailed design, planning and costings. Once the full business case is finalised, approved by Government and funding is made available, delivery can begin.

When completed, this scheme can begin delivering benefits straight away, by allowing an additional service each hour to Birmingham Airport and Coventry from Oxford, Banbury and Leamington, and easing crowding on the corridor.

After Phase One of HS2 is completed, the additional capacity created on the network will be utilised to introduce direct services to Birmingham Airport and Coventry to and from Derby, Sheffield, Doncaster, York, Darlington, Durham and Newcastle, as well as a new direct connection between Birmingham Moor Street, Solihull, Warwick Parkway and Oxford.

Rail scheme development lifecycle



Immediate funding ask: **£20 million**

Full business case to begin in **2020**

Delivery: from 2024 onwards

Estimated capital cost: £125m-£180m*

*Full cost to be refined as part of Full Business Case



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