



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

27th July 2018

Dear Chancellor,

As you said in your 2016 Autumn Statement “No other major developed economy has such a gap between the productivity of its capital city and its 2nd and 3rd cities” and we welcome your ongoing commitment to deal with this issue by reversing decades of underinvestment in our region. One of the crucial factors in delivering a Northern Powerhouse capable of narrowing this divide and rebalancing the economy is improving transport connections across the North. We welcome the recent National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) support for major transport projects including Northern Powerhouse Rail, and we look forward to working closely with civic and business leaders in the North to support Transport for the North in preparing the business case. The undersigned very much hope you will include the following in your 2018 budget announcements:

1. Bring forward the delivery date for Northern Powerhouse Rail to 2032

Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) has the potential to increase capacity and reduce journey times but also to greatly enhance transport links that deliver transformational economic growth for our towns and cities. For example, connecting Bradford, the UK’s youngest city, through NPR could create 15,000 additional jobs. Economic revolutions such as this, replicated throughout the Northern Powerhouse, from Sunderland to Leeds, York to Hull, Sheffield to Manchester, Liverpool to Carlisle, and all those in between, will be a game-changer. The Autumn Budget is a timely opportunity to commit the necessary funds to allow NPR and Crossrail 2 to move forward in lockstep. This will include new lines where necessary alongside HS2 from Liverpool to Manchester Airport and from Manchester to Leeds. We call on the government to accept the NIC recommendation to allocate £24 billion to NPR, including at least £200 million per annum to bring forward the target completion date to coincide with the planned arrival of HS2 in Leeds and Manchester in 2032.

2. Significantly increase overall levels of strategic transport infrastructure spending in the North to £100bn by 2050

Commit to the remainder of the Transport for the North (TfN) recommendations by increasing the funding for strategic road and rail projects (i.e. not including local transport budgets) to £100 billion by 2050. This will allow the North’s economic corridors from the coasts, countryside and ports to towns, cities and airports, to be better connected, to attract investment, to create jobs and encourage UK and overseas companies to set up business in the North of England.

Taking these realistic and achievable steps would provide a considerable boost to the North of England and the UK as a whole and would reassure our constituents that dramatic improvements to the network are being committed to and the North is taking control of its own destiny.

*Yours ever,
Kevin*

Kevin Hollinrake MP

Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP

Julie Elliott MP

John Stevenson MP

Co-Chairs, Northern Powerhouse All-Party Parliamentary Group

The Lord Haskins

The Rt Hon the Lord Heseltine CH

The Lord O'Neill of Gatley

The Lord Goddard of Stockport

Vice-Chairs, Northern Powerhouse All-Party Parliamentary Group

(cont.)

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Andrew Percy MP
Ronnie Campbell MP
Martin Vickers MP
Sir David Crausby MP
Judith Cummins MP
Paul Blomfield MP
William Wragg MP
Mary Glindon MP
Lee Rowley MP
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Graham P Jones MP
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Jo Platt MP
Marie Rimmer MP
Angela Smith MP
Anna Turley MP
Stephen Twigg MP
John Woodcock MP

Dame Louise Ellman MP
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Mary Robinson MP
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