



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

29th April 2019

Dear Chancellor,

As northerners and parliamentarians of the Northern Powerhouse APPG, we welcome your commitment in the Spring Statement to Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and to examining the business case submitted by Transport for the North (TfN). This £39bn business case is bold and ambitious, but also a realistic and evidence-based proposal for a project that would be transformational for the North of England.

As well as faster journey times, enhanced capacity and greater frequency, NPR would provide opportunities for our young people to secure the skilled jobs we need to drive productivity and link up the great cities of the North to stimulate economic growth. It is vital that NPR is delivered to the North alongside HS2, to create a high-speed network for the whole of the country and open up labour markets that are currently not accessible for young people across the North today. With HS2 and NPR it is not a case of either/or – we need both.

The commitment to NPR has to be part of a wider package of infrastructure to deliver a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rebalance the economy and narrow the North-South divide. A total of £120bn is needed by 2050 to include strategic transport schemes as well as local transport investment. This is a significant figure, but it is also achievable; by committing to spend 1.2% of GDP on this transport investment as set out by the National Infrastructure Commission in the National Infrastructure Assessment last year.

This major investment will allow the North's economic corridors to be better connected, attracting investment, creating jobs and encouraging businesses in the UK to set up in the North of England as well as attracting overseas organisations to discover a connected Northern Powerhouse through Manchester Airport, the North's international long-haul hub.

Moreover, it would demonstrate beyond doubt this government's commitment to the Northern Powerhouse, to the economic rebalancing of the UK and to destroying once and for all the North-South divide, which in education, health, transport and productivity is affecting our families, communities and businesses alike.

In advance of the All-Party Parliamentary Group sharing the Northern Powerhouse's detailed Comprehensive Review Submissions, we would like to request a meeting with the cross-party Co-Chairs of the group to discuss business, civic leaders and our priorities as northern parliamentarians.

Yours ever,

Kevin Hollinrake MP Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP Julie Elliott MP John Stevenson MP
Co-Chairs, Northern Powerhouse All-Party Parliamentary Group

Alex Sobel MP	Ian Mearns MP	Lucy Powell MP
Andrea Jenkyns MP	Imran Hussain MP	Mark Menzies MP
Andrew Percy MP	James Frith MP	Martin Vickers MP
Angela Smith MP	Jeff Smith MP	Mary Robinson MP
Anna Turley MP	Jim McMahon MP	Mel Onn MP
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP	Jo Platt MP	Mike Amesbury MP
Bridget Phillipson MP	John Grogan MP	Mike Hill MP
Catherine McKinnell MP	John Woodcock MP	Naz Shah MP
Chris Green MP	Jonathan Reynolds MP	Nic Dakin MP
Craig Whittaker MP	Judith Cummins MP	Nigel Adams MP
Debbie Abrahams MP	Julian Sturdy MP	Nigel Evans MP
Diana Johnson MP	Julie Cooper MP	Paul Blomfield MP
Emma Hardy MP	Karl Turner MP	Paul Williams MP
Emma Lewell Buck MP	Kate Green MP	Phil Wilson MP
Frank Field MP	Laura Smith MP	Rachel Reeves MP
Gill Furness MP	Lee Rowley MP	Ronnie Campbell MP
Graham Jones MP	Lisa Nandy MP	Rosie Cooper MP
Grahame Morris MP	Louise Ellman MP	Rt Hon George Howarth MP
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Simon Clarke MP	Sir David Crausby MP	Sir Mark Hendrick MP
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Rt Hon Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top
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