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Please Ask
For

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Minicom

FREEPOST RTEC-AJUT-GGHH
HS2 Phase One Bill Environmental
Statement
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Wolverhampton
City Council



Councillor Peter Bilson BA (Hons)

Deputy Leader of the Council
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Your Ref.

My Ref. LB/GJ/231213

7 January 2014

Dear Sirs,

Re: Consultation response – HS2 Phase One, Environmental Statement

I am writing on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council in response to the above consultation received from the Department for Transport.

Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) supports the principle of developing a High Speed Rail Network on the basis that it would provide a step-change improvement to the national rail network. There would be clear and demonstrable economic benefits to the West Midlands region by reducing travel times to London and the South East and it would have a consequent impact on expanding the 'catchment area' of businesses.

The outputs of the environmental statement support the conclusion that the principal direct benefit to Wolverhampton is the released capacity on the West Coast Main Line and consequent opportunities for improved rail services to and through the City. However it is essential that the capacity released on the 'classic network' should be fully utilised to improve rail connections to London and elsewhere to support the Wolverhampton economy and deliver the potential benefits.

It is also important that government continues to support the Wolverhampton Interchange development which will deliver the access improvements to Wolverhampton railway station that are required to accommodate the additional trips likely to be generated as a result of HS2.

Yours faithfully

Peter Bilson
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Prosperity
Wolverhampton City Council