

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Councillor Alyson Barnes

**The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup,
OL13 0BB**

This matter is being dealt with by:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes

Telephone: 01706 252427

Email: alysonbarnes@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Our reference:

Date: 15th November 2018

Barry White
Chief Executive
Transport for the North
2nd Floor 4 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BN

Dear Mr White,

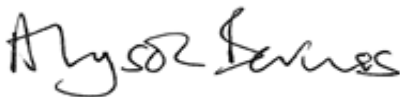
The loss of rail connections fifty years ago in the parts of Lancashire and northern Greater Manchester, that we represent, has left our communities largely dependent on highly congested and unreliable roads for vital access to employment and other opportunities in the wider city region. We believe that reconnecting Rawtenstall, Ramsbottom, Bury and Heywood to the national rail network is a necessary step to redressing this and to the success of the Central Pennine Corridor more generally.

Recent work indicates that a feasible and cost-effective solution - that also supports the continuing success of the East Lancashire Railway - is achievable. This could provide a vital connection for driving economic growth in Rossendale and add much needed radial and orbital connectivity in northern Greater Manchester.

We therefore want to see this link treated as a high priority scheme in the forthcoming Transport for the North Investment Programme for 2020-50. This would be a precursor to funding a Strategic Outline Business Case and the remaining development and planning stages needed to take the project forwards.

While it is unusual for the infrastructure of a closed railway to have survived more or less intact, this is not the basis of our case – rather it is the opportunity to unlock economic potential and access to opportunities that the severe limitations of the existing transport system in our area threaten to curtail.

Kind regards,



Cllr Alyson Barnes, Leader Rossendale Council

*"Rossendale will have strong communities with an enhanced environment and heritage.
It will be an attractive place to live where tourists visit and employers invest."*



Cllr Allen Brett, Leader Rochdale Council



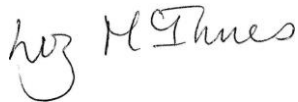
Cllr Rishi Shori, Leader Bury Council



Cllr Geoff Driver, Leader Lancashire County Council



Jake Berry MP
(Signed in his capacity as MP for Rossendale and Darwen)



Liz McInnes MP (Heywood and Middleton)



James Frith MP (Bury North)

*"Rossendale will have strong communities with an enhanced environment and heritage.
It will be an attractive place to live where tourists visit and employers invest."*

Keep up to date with Rossendale Borough Council via www.rossendale.gov.uk or follow us on

 @RossendaleBC  Rossendale Council