

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

19 July 2023

Dear Secretary of State

## **Letter of support for Stratford station redevelopment project - to accompany Strategic Outline Business Case**

On behalf of BusinessLDN, I am pleased to offer our support for the redevelopment of Stratford station. The redevelopment is required because of the changing nature and remarkable success of East London. The last ten years has been transformational, not least because of the 2012 Olympics and the regeneration it has brought through thousands of homes built and jobs created. The station now needs a strategic redevelopment plan both to serve new and existing communities, and to enable the future growth of the UK economy.

East London is the fastest growing part of the UK and Government projections estimate a further 500,000 residents over the next 20 years. Stratford station is a vital transport hub for this community and this local growth is borne out in the station's rise from 75th place to fifth in the rankings of busiest rail stations in the country. It is important to ensure that the transport network can function effectively now and in the future, supporting the local community and the major business, cultural, and educational institutions such as Westfield, the V&A, FCA, British Council, UCL and BBC that have invested in the area.

Stratford station provides direct links to London, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Berkshire. These areas collectively generate a third of the UK's economic output and unless Stratford station is redeveloped, it will become a constraint on the growth of these regions.

The redevelopment of the station will help facilitate key development opportunities for both housing and commercial uses on brownfield land. And, of course, crucially, it will encourage and enable greater use of public transport supporting decarbonisation targets.

It is projected that by the early 2040s, queues of up to 15 minutes could become norm for entering and exiting the station. Without action, Stratford station will grind to a halt. As such, we urge you to support the huge range of regeneration, social and economic benefits that the project will deliver.

Yours sincerely,



John Dickie  
Chief Executive