

Item 17 - Appendix 1: Draft Letter of Support from LEP Board to the Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Right Honourable Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport

Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund Submission

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership to express the formal support of the LEP and the local business community for the Leeds City Region Transforming Cities Fund submission.

Our Strategic Economic Plan for the City Region clearly sets out our ambition to rebalance the economy and move towards economic self-sufficiency. Our emerging focus for our Local Inclusive Industry Strategy is to tackle our productivity gap and improve living standards particularly in areas of deprivation. The Transforming Cities Fund offers a major opportunity to help realise these priorities.

As the largest city region in England, our submission covers the well-recognised functional economic geography of Leeds City Region. Our submission brings together collaboration between the public and private sectors as well as being shaped through the leading academic thinking and research based in our region.

We have designed a package which is focused on delivering our strategic priorities and has been shaped and prioritised based on the requirements set out in the Transforming Cities Fund guidance. We ask to move forward to stage two and co-develop our proposals with Government. Our ambition is to deliver a £250-£300 million package of transformational connectivity measures by 2022.

Our proposal represents the first stage in delivery of our longer term connectivity ambitions and it has been significantly influenced by the short funding window available at this stage. Delivery of truly transformational connectivity will require significant investment beyond 2022. As part of our recent correspondence with Government around the Leeds City Region HS2 Growth Strategy we highlighted the need for exploring a multi-year settlement. This would enable delivery of our shared ambitions to be HS2 ready and to rebalance the economy. This would be significantly aided through early confirmation around longer term funding or future phases of Transforming Cities Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Marsh
[contact details]