



Department
for Transport

Baroness Valentine
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

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Dear Baroness Valentine

Due to the limited time remaining at the end of the Second Reading of the High Speed Rail (London to West Midlands) Bill, I was unable to respond to many of the points raised during the debate. I therefore write to outline my response to your comments where I was unable to do so during the debate itself.

Both the Government and Network Rail are fully supportive of the ambition for a comprehensive redevelopment of Euston Station. We are committed to exploring how the 'classic' side of Euston station can be fully integrated with the HS2 station and a potential Crossrail 2 station. I can confirm that funding is available to progress initial feasibility work for the preparation of an outline masterplan for Euston Station, including the case for redeveloping the classic part of the station. Officials in the department are currently working with Network Rail and HS2 Ltd to develop a detailed plan for this work.

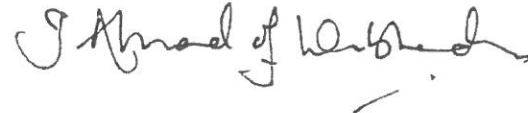
In terms of how we are assisting areas to ensure they make the most of the growth opportunities that HS2 will create, my Department, together with the Department for Communities and Local Government are working with local areas to help them develop their plans for implementing their Growth Strategies to maximise the growth potential of HS2 stations.

The Government's actions to assist these areas has included transfer of government-owned land around the planned Old Oak Common HS2

station which is not required for operational railway purposes to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC). This will help maximise OPDC's opportunity to secure comprehensive and co-ordinated redevelopment of the regeneration zone. The Government has also committed to an extension to the Birmingham Enterprise Zone and capital funding for the extension of the Metro into Digbeth to support implementation of the Growth Strategy for Curzon and Interchange stations.

I hope this answers the points mentioned sufficiently.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,


LORD AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON