

Baroness Gardner of Parkes House of Lords London SW1A 0PW **Baroness Vere of Norbiton** Transport Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

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Dear Trixie,

I am writing to thank you for your contribution during Grand Committee on the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill last week, and for raising the important issue of connectivity within Birmingham. As promised, I am writing to follow up on the concern you raised during the debate.

There will be two new High Speed stations built in Birmingham; Birmingham Curzon Street and Birmingham Interchange. Current plans will provide these stations with direct High Speed connections to strategic stations further north, including Crewe and Manchester. More information on the stations served directly from Curzon Street and Birmingham interchange can be found on the High Speed 2 route map.

The new stations in Birmingham will be well integrated into local transport systems. Birmingham Curzon Street will be located in the Eastside district on the edge of the city centre. The existing Moor Street station is at one end, the Millennium Point development and historic Curzon Street station building are to the north of the site, and the existing Birmingham to Rugby railway line runs along the south side. Curzon Street will be fully integrated into an extended tram network, and journeys to New Street are estimated to be around 4 minutes.

Birmingham Interchange will be located near the existing Birmingham International Station, National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham Airport, and will be part of a new public transport interchange serving Solihull, the West Midlands, Birmingham Airport and the National Exhibition Centre. A highcapacity automated people mover is planned to connect the Interchange to the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham International Station and Birmingham Airport. The journey from Interchange Station to the airport will take approximately six minutes.

HS2 Ltd are working closely with Birmingham City Council, Midland Metro and Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM) to ensure good connectivity to other modes of transport including pedestrian, cycle, taxi, bus and conventional rail connections to the rest of the city and the wider West Midlands. Detailed information can be found in Birmingham City Council's "Birmingham Curzon HS2: Masterplan".

If you have any further questions, I would of course be happy to answer them. I look forward to a robust debate at Report stage.

I am copying this letter to all Noble Lords who spoke at Grand Committee and I am also placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours, charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON