

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill Minister of State for Rail Department for Transport Great Minster House - 33 Horseferry Road London SWIP 4DR

> 15 January 2025 Delivered via email: <u>pocorrespondence@dft.gov.uk</u>

Dear Minister

## **Re: Kings Norton Railway Station**

We are writing to you as MPs that represent the communities that are served by Kings Norton railway station.

Kings Norton station is critically important to south Birmingham's economy. It is one of the 'top five' most-used commuter stations in the city, and the station served almost a million passengers last year.

However, service quality has fallen in recent years. Commuters used to be served by six trains an hour, which departed every ten minutes. This frequency has fallen to four trains an hour which are 'bunched' and less convenient.

The fall in service quality (and subsequent crowding at peak hours) is forcing more people on the roads when the city has declared a road safety emergency.

The middle platforms, which fell out regular timetabled use in the late 1970s, are dilapidated and in need of remedial work. The planned extension of Camp Hill line services to Kings Norton should restore six trains an hour, and establish new transport links between Kings Norton, Stirchley, Kings Heath, and Moseley – in addition to the city centre.



Capital investment to reinstate the middle platform would enable further service improvements and significantly boost south Birmingham's economy, including and beyond the Kings Norton Business Park. If the works proceed there will also be knock-on benefits for Northfield and Longbridge, as Kings Norton will become an interchange between Cross City and Camp Hill services.<sup>1</sup>

Under the previous Conservative Government, some money was made available to draw up designs – but despite what our constituents were told, not one penny was allocated for the necessary works. Substantial adaptions need to be made to the platform and track if the project is to succeed.

We understand that the Department is currently looking at the viability and funding of all projects that fall under the 'Midlands Rail Hub' banner. As local MPs – supported by the councillors for the wards that cover the station, Carmel Corrigan, Liz Clements and Fred Grindrod – we urge you to give full and favourable consideration to the Kings Norton station upgrade.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Tumer

Laurence Turner Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield

Al Carns

Al Carns Member of Parliament for Birmingham Selly Oak

cc: Simon Lightfoot MP, Minister for Local Transport

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> And, longer term, there is a strong case for extending Camp Hill services to Northfield and Longbridge, and for developing Longbridge's potential as an interchange station for services from the South West.