



The Right Honourable Theresa Villiers MP
Minister of State for Transport
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

16 April 2012

Dear Minister,

High Level Operating Strategy

North Bristol Sus Com is a business-led organisation comprised of some of the largest employers in North Bristol. Our current members include Airbus, BAE Systems, Boeing, the Bristol & Bath Science Park, Cribbs Causeway, Friends Life, GKN Aerospace, Hewlett Packard, MITIE, MOD, the National Composites Centre, NHS Blood & Transplant, North Bristol NHS Trust and UWE.

Our partnership was formed to help reduce congestion in the North Bristol Fringe area. We aim to encourage behaviour change in our 40,000 employees, 30,000 students and key stakeholders by promoting innovative and attractive alternatives to single occupancy car travel. We have already developed and adopted an area travel plan containing shared objectives, targets and an action plan. Many of our members even operate a range of bus routes to help staff travel sustainably to work and across multiple sites.

We are very supportive of the efforts being made by Network Rail and the four local councils in Bristol & the West of England in securing crucial infrastructure improvements in the specification for the Great Western Franchise. Running four tracks from Parkway to Temple Meads resolves a 'major blockage in the rail arteries' and means train operators can plan better local services across the city with a lot more confidence. **We hope that the Government will fund this vital rail infrastructure improvement as part of your High Level Operating Strategy.**

Filton Bank, one of two mainlines through Bristol Temple Meads, runs through Filton Abbey Wood and Bristol Parkway (two train stations that are adjacent to a number of our employers' sites). Local trains serving the Severn Beach line, Lawrence Hill and Stapleton Road also use this line. There used to be four

tracks, but two were removed in the 1980s. This has meant that inter-city trains have been given priority over local services which in turn has had a negative impact on service planning for all local trains.

Restoring the four tracks will unlock an essential local rail line for more regular local trains serving popular residential and business destinations including North Bristol.

As employers we are committed to working together to promote sustainable transport options to our employees. We are working together with the bus companies to help fill gaps, increase frequency and reduce duplication on bus routes. Many of our employers run pool bike schemes, give priority parking to 2+ car sharers and one even runs a fleet of electric vehicles for tenants to use.

Increasing the travel opportunities for our employees through an enhanced local rail service can only help our businesses grow, enable many of our staff to get to work more easily and help us attract additional people and investment into the area.

On behalf of North Bristol SusCom, I hope the Government will provide the funding required to deliver the four track investment requested. I know our members would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you or your colleagues and invite you to visit us next time you are in Bristol.

Yours sincerely

Ann O'Driscoll
Director
North Bristol Sus Com

North Bristol Sus Com, Bristol & Bath Science Park, Dirac Crescent
Emersons Green, Bristol BS16 7FR

www.northbristolsuscom.org

Twitter: @NBristolSusCom

