

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Transport Board

10 June 2013

Longbridge Connectivity Package Local Transport Bid

I am writing to express strong support for proposals to improve connectivity between the public transport network and the regeneration of Longbridge.

The redevelopment of Longbridge is one of the biggest regeneration projects in the region and one of national significance. This is underlined by its position on the Birmingham/Worcestershire border, its proximity to both the M42 and M5 motorways and its location on the Cross City line with potential for rail connectivity far beyond. Longbridge station is a vital gateway to Longbridge both as a destination and as a link to other centres of key economic activity within and beyond the region.

Longbridge's proximity to the Lickey and Waseley Hills give it a unique location close to two of Birmingham and Worcestershire's beauty spots but its catchment also contains areas of high levels of multiple deprivation and urban isolation. Regeneration of Longbridge therefore is as vital to promoting social inclusion, aspiration and opportunity for local people, as it is to improving prosperity in the west Midlands as a whole. For that to happen, accessibility to improved transport connectivity is a key part of the equation

I have taken an active role in helping to bring public and private partners together to develop the kind of proposals being put forward. They are designed to achieve a much improved journey experience for passengers as well as encouraging the use of sustainable methods of transport to reduce the reliance on single-occupancy car usage reducing emissions and congestion.

With support, this project will deliver significant transport, regeneration and economic benefits in Birmingham and will support the future growth of the city in line with the Birmingham Development Plan, Longbridge Area Action Plan, Economic Zones Prospectus and Vision for Movement.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with Centro and Birmingham City Council to develop these proposals further.

Best wishes



Richard Burden MP
Birmingham Northfield