

FOREWORD

Our city region is growing and HS2 is vital to support the next step in transforming our economy.

HS2 is much more than just a transport project. It will act as a catalyst for regeneration and growth around our main transport hubs, it will improve connectivity to our towns and cities across the Leeds City Region and the North, it will improve the skills and job opportunities for our workforce, it will create opportunities for our businesses and supply chains, and enhance the image and profile of our city region.

HS2 is part of our wider ambitions for inclusive growth across the Leeds City Region. This growth is essential in order to raise living standards and tackle deprivation, boost innovation, exports and create new jobs. HS2 helps achieve our goals by strengthening business links, by opening up new markets and access to talent and by connecting people to jobs.

As a major piece of national infrastructure HS2 will result in faster journey times, improved national North - South connectivity and much needed increased capacity on our rail network. Passengers will soon be able to travel across the UK at speeds of up to 250mph in new high speed trains and HS2 will offer a solution to the chronic overcrowding of the existing rail stock running along the East Coast Mainline. It will also help link the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine, rebalancing the rest of the UK with the South East and unlocking the full potential of the Leeds City Region.

The transformation and regeneration around our station hubs at Leeds, Bradford, York, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Halifax and Harrogate will change the fabric of our cities and towns. For Leeds this will mean the redevelopment of the busiest railway station in the North, fuelling our wider ambitions for regeneration of the South Bank, creating new jobs and homes, and delivering a reimagined waterfront and city park right in the heart of Leeds.

HS2 is also essential to improve wider connectivity and transform the North. This includes Northern Powerhouse Rail that will connect Liverpool, Newcastle and Hull, and crucially will mean people can get from Leeds to Manchester (via Bradford) in 30 minutes, uniting the main drivers of the Northern Powerhouse.



Councillor Judith Blake CBE,
Leader, Leeds City Council



Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe,
Leader, Bradford Metropolitan
District Council & Chair, West
Yorkshire Combined Authority



Councillor Keith Wakefield OBE,
Chair, West Yorkshire Combined
Authority Transport Committee



Roger Marsh OBE, Chair,
Leeds City Region Enterprise
Partnership



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IMPACTS OF OUR HS2 GROWTH STRATEGY

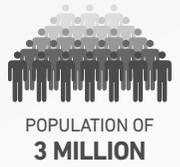


JOURNEY TIMES

	CURRENT	HS2
LONDON	LONDON	LONDON
175 MILES TRAIN: 2HR 1 HR BY AIR	175 MILES TRAIN: 2HR 15MINS 1 HR BY AIR	175 MILES 1HR 21MINS BY TRAIN 1 HR BY AIR
BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM
93 MILES 1HR 50MINS BY TRAIN 2HR 15MINS BY ROAD	93 MILES TRAIN: 49MINS 2HR 15MINS BY ROAD	93 MILES TRAIN: 49MINS 2HR 15MINS BY ROAD
LIVERPOOL	LIVERPOOL	LIVERPOOL
64 MILES 1HR 50MINS BY TRAIN 1HR 30MINS BY ROAD	64 MILES TRAIN: 50MINS 1HR 30MINS BY ROAD	64 MILES TRAIN: 50MINS 1HR 30MINS BY ROAD
MANCHESTER	MANCHESTER	MANCHESTER
43 MILES 50 MINS BY TRAIN	43 MILES 30 MINS BY TRAIN AND ROAD	43 MILES 30 MINS BY TRAIN AND ROAD



LEEDS CITY REGION



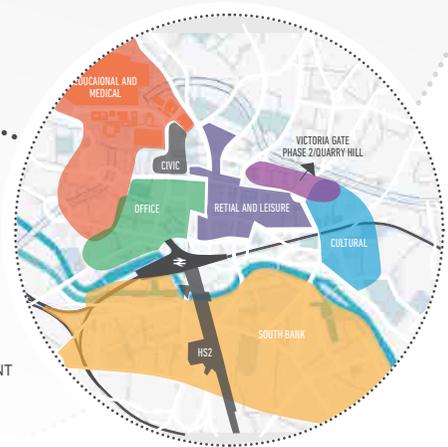
IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY ON OUR PRIORITY CORRIDORS
UNLOCK DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE REGION AT GROWTH HUBS IN BRADFORD, HALIFAX, HARROGATE, HUDDERSFIELD, SELBY, SKIPTON, WAKEFIELD AND YORK



YORK CENTRAL



SOUTH BANK



PRINCIPLES OF OUR HS2 GROWTH STRATEGY



A STEP CHANGE IN CONNECTIVITY FOR THE CITY REGION

- Bring people and businesses closer together, connecting people to jobs, driving innovation, productivity and growth in our main urban centres.
- Increase capacity on the regional network through improvements to priority corridors.
- Make travel easier by enabling shorter journey times, more trains, more seats and seamless links to other modes of transport.
- Develop and promote new technology to improve passenger services.



A NEW WORLD CLASS GATEWAY AT LEEDS STATION

- A distinctive gateway into Leeds and the wider city region.
- A new integrated station linking HS2 into the heart of Leeds.
- A destination station being an attractive place to visit Leeds with improved public spaces and supporting regeneration.
- A connected place where national, regional, and local transport services meet and are integrated together.



A CATALYST FOR REGENERATION

- Support regeneration, development and housing growth in our urban centres, by accelerating the delivery of major schemes around our main transport hubs.
- Double the size and economic contribution of Leeds city centre through the South Bank and Innovation District projects.
- Unlock development across the region at hubs in Bradford, York, Huddersfield, Halifax, Harrogate, Selby, Skipton and Wakefield.



TRANSFORMING THE CITY REGION ECONOMY

- Position HS2 as part of a coherent strategy for the rail network as a whole – transforming links between the Leeds City Region and the rest of the UK.
- Bring new markets within reach of businesses, and new opportunities within reach of people, enabling them to progress and become more productive, in a more integrated labour market.
- Increase productivity and growth by widening business reach to innovation, talent and export markets.



INSPIRING OUR PEOPLE

- Create the opportunity for everyone to improve their skills, access better opportunities, and progress within the labour market.
- Position the city region as a centre of excellence for skills development in rail including strengthening links with the National High Speed Rail College in Doncaster.
- Inspire the next generation of engineers, technicians and infrastructure specialists in our schools.
- Deliver a significant increase of women and BME representation in HS2 construction and the wider rail and transport sectors.



DEVELOPING OUR BUSINESSES AND SUPPLY CHAIN

- Position the city region as the UK centre for high speed rail engineering.
- Build on the capabilities of the University of Leeds Institute for High Speed Rail and System Integration by creating a technology park to locate transport technology spinouts and inward investors, linking with the University of Huddersfield's Institute of Railway Research.
- Increase awareness of the opportunities HS2 will bring.
- Support our innovators and entrepreneurs to develop new and exciting products in rail engineering.
- Develop the cluster of railway engineering expertise in York.



A MAGNET FOR INVESTMENT AND A CULTURAL DESTINATION

- Increase levels of inward investment through promoting the opportunities HS2 will bring globally.
- Promote the cultural assets of the region to encourage visitors and workers.
- Support the emerging Leeds Cultural Strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This strategy sets out how Leeds City Region will work with Government, business, schools, colleges and universities to maximise the benefits of HS2. The HS2 Growth Taskforce recommended in 2014 that HS2 could transform city region economies, but only if concerted action is taken to get our people, businesses, cities and local transport networks ready to make the most of the opportunity. It reflects the priorities in the Government's Industrial Strategy.

With a population of 3 million and a £65 billion annual economy, Leeds City Region is significant in the context of the national economy and the Northern Powerhouse. Our economy is growing, with recent private sector jobs growth in cities such as Leeds and Wakefield amongst the highest levels nationally. Productivity levels are also increasing in comparison to the national average. We have a young, entrepreneurial population, excellent universities and real strengths in sectors such as manufacturing, financial and professional services, health and life sciences, and digital.

TRANSFORMING THE CITY REGION ECONOMY

HS2 and other transport improvements will bring new markets within reach of our businesses, connect people to new and more productive jobs, and support the clustering of high growth firms in our urban centres.

We will position HS2 at the centre of a coherent strategy for improving the rail and transport network serving Leeds City Region. It will be integrated with enhanced

inter-urban links across the north (Northern Powerhouse Rail), particularly a new fast east-west link between York, Leeds, Bradford and Manchester, and also between Leeds and Sheffield. Our strategy includes upgrades to existing rail lines, to secure improvements before HS2 is built, and to spread the benefits of HS2 and utilise the capacity it releases.

We estimate that the interventions set out in this HS2 Growth Strategy will result in the creation of around 40,000 additional jobs in Leeds City Region by 2050. This job creation relates to the local connectivity, regeneration, skills and supply chain initiatives set out in this strategy; it does not include the jobs that will be created by HS2 itself, jobs that will be created by more general growth in the economy, and jobs displaced from elsewhere. It is a conservative estimate, but one we believe is robust. However, building on the positive forecasts for the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review and for the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy, it is plausible that the HS2 Growth Strategy interventions could contribute to productivity gains and regeneration benefits that would result in up to 50,000 further additional jobs in Leeds City Region by 2050.

A STEP CHANGE IN CONNECTIVITY FOR THE CITY REGION

We will spread the benefits of major national transport investment through achieving a step change in connectivity within our city region. This will enable the separate towns and cities of Leeds City Region to function as a more integrated economic area, bringing significant productivity gains and enabling people to access a wider

range of jobs. There will be more capacity on the rail and public transport network, faster and more frequent services, improved interchanges, better ticketing and travel information, and widespread use of new technology to improve transport.

CREATING A WORLD CLASS GATEWAY AT LEEDS STATION

We will transform Leeds Station, already the busiest transport hub in the north, to create a world class gateway providing seamless interchange for people changing trains, increased rail capacity, and improved concourse areas.

The Leeds Integrated Station Masterplan sets out a long term framework for the future development of Leeds Station. It has been produced through commissioning of a world class design team by Leeds City Council, HS2 Ltd, Network Rail, and Transport for the North, with input from the Department for Transport, and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The scheme will incorporate commercial development, which will contribute to the financing of the project. It will support the growth of Leeds City Centre through development adjacent to the station and enhanced public realm.

A CATALYST FOR REGENERATION

We will use HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and improvements to our city region transport network to accelerate regeneration and development in our urban



centres, next to our main transport hubs. Through the South Bank Leeds and the Leeds Innovation District projects we will double the size and economic contribution of Leeds City Centre. We will deliver major regeneration projects at York Central, Bradford's City Centre Growth Zone, at Merchant Gate and Rutland Mills in Wakefield, in Halifax (building on the momentum created by the renovation of the Piece Hall), at HD One and the town centre in Huddersfield, and major retail and leisure schemes in Harrogate.

INSPIRING OUR PEOPLE

We will use HS2 as a catalyst and focus for raising awareness of young people to the range of jobs that will be available in transport, engineering, infrastructure and the future knowledge economy. We will work with our businesses, universities, colleges (including the HS2 College at Doncaster) and schools to support people into these jobs, with a particular focus on increasing the proportion of women working in these sectors.

DEVELOPING OUR BUSINESSES AND SUPPLY CHAIN

We will establish Leeds City Region as a world leading hub for innovation and expertise in rail engineering. We will support supply chain development and attract inward investment from firms that want to co-locate alongside the University of Leeds Institute for High Speed Rail and Systems Integration, the University of Huddersfield Rail Institute, and York's concentration of rail engineering firms.

A MAGNET FOR INVESTMENT AND A CULTURAL DESTINATION

We will use HS2 to continue to enhance the image and profile of our city region as a place to invest, to visit and to build a career, making the most of our fantastic cultural assets.

IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION

We have set out a series of detailed proposals to implement this strategy, bringing together investments across a wide range of different national, city region and local funding programmes, encompassing transport, housing, regeneration, education and skills, and economic development projects.

An integrated approach to funding and implementation will be needed across Government and local partners. We have set out how we will bring together local funding streams, how we could capture some of the value uplift in Leeds from HS2, and the funding from Government needed to progress the projects set out in this HS2 Growth Strategy.

This is a consultation draft, please visit www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/hs2growthstrategy for more information and to submit your responses.