Tom Gifford

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP)

Wellington House

40-50 Wellington Street

Leeds

LS1 2DE

15 June 2018

Dear Tom

**Re: Transforming Cities Fund proposal**

The FSB in West Yorkshire was pleased to be invited by the LEP to discuss the above proposal. Although a lot of detail is yet to be worked up we support this bid as we believe it is consistent with our policy goals, specifically the call for greater investment in transport that we made in our recent Entrepreneurial North report.[[1]](#endnote-1)

As you know the FSB provides a voice for small businesses in the City Region. Our aim is to speak up on issues for all small businesses and not just the 7,000 members we have in the Leeds City Region. The bid as outlined to me would address issues around improving bus travel that our members have raised with us, including in a recent membership survey that we held across the North of England to help inform our work with Transport for the North. Information from this survey gives us confidence that small businesses value the bids’ aim of improving local connectivity.

One area that members have raised that is not currently addressed in the bid but we would like to be considered is the development of a national bus travel App. We feel this would provide a benefit to businesses and their staff, especially when travelling by public transport outside of their own town of city.

I am delighted to offer our support for this proposal and look forward to working with you further to ensure this bid brings the greatest possible benefit to businesses in the Leeds City Region.

Yours sincerely



**Barney Mynott**

**Development Manager, West Yorkshire**

1. An entrepreneurial north: Helping small business and entrepreneurship to thrive in the North of England. Nov 2017 <https://www.fsb.org.uk/docs/default-source/fsb-org-uk/an-entrepreneurial-north-final---15-nov-2017c5062ebd4fa86562a286ff0000dc48fe.pdf?sfvrsn=0> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)