



Department
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

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Thank you for your email of 17 October 2016 to the Chancellor, about the Ely area capacity enhancement proposals. Your correspondence has been transferred to the Department for Transport.

Allow me to repeat how much we regret the impact of the Hendy Review on rail upgrades in East Anglia. As you know, a number of schemes across the country (including Ely North Junction) were deferred and are now expected to be delivered during railway Control Period 6 (2019-2024). While clearly frustrating for the areas impacts, these changes were important in order to bring stability back to the national upgrade programme. Your email is a helpful reminder of the importance of the Ely area infrastructure to rail services across the region, as well as its national importance (particularly in terms of freight movements to/ from Felixstowe).

I have been impressed to hear of the efforts of local stakeholders working together to accelerate delivery of the Ely area enhancement proposals. Indeed, I note that LEPs and local authorities have assembled proposals to fund detailed development work as part of the third round of the Local Growth Fund. Bids for round 3 of the LGF are currently being carefully considered, with a view to supporting and unlocking economic growth. The outcome is due to be announced at the Autumn Statement on 23 November.

If a strong business case can be made for the Ely area enhancements, they will be well placed for early delivery during Control Period 6.

I am copying this letter to Lucy Frazer MP; Brandon Lewis MP; Sir Henry Bellingham MP; Matthew Hancock MP; Stephen Barclay MP; George Freeman MP; Peter Aldous MP; Stewart Jackson MP; Jo Churchill MP; Heidi Allen MP; Johnathan Djanogly MP; Ben Gummer MP; Dr Therese Coffey MP and Richard Bacon MP.

With best wishes


Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT