



Department
for Transport

Councillor Richard Blunt
Leader of North West Leicestershire
District Council

Councillor Michael Wyatt
Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Tony Saffell
Independent

From the Minister of State
Huw Merriman MP

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Our Ref: MC/439558

27 November 2023

Dear Councillors Blunt, Wyatt and Saffell,

Thank you for your letter of 21 November to Mark Harper about Ivanhoe Line project, which is part of the government's Restoring Your Railway programme. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

I am grateful for your and North West Leicestershire District Council's continued support for the project. The motion you passed at full Council rightly highlights the importance of the project and the benefits it will deliver to the communities it will serve.

As you know, on 4 October the Prime Minister set out his vision to deliver the forms of transport that people use, and benefit from, the most. This included commitments to deliver the Ivanhoe line, subject to usual business case decisions.

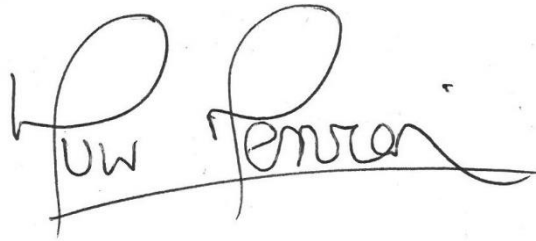
The Network North initiative will radically improve travel between and within our cities and towns, and around our local areas – benefitting more people in more places, more quickly. We are in the early stages of planning next steps, including delivery timelines, for various schemes and are working closely with Network Rail and other delivery partners to develop and deliver on government priorities.

The Ivanhoe line project is currently focusing on the reinstatement of services between Derby and Coalville, which will reconnect all the main areas of population in the corridor and is likely to be deliverable the fastest.

My Department is currently considering how an extension of this service from Coalville to Leicester is best progressed. This will also examine whether additional stations will be delivered on this route section.

I understand that officials are already in close contact with the Council through ongoing project steering group meetings, which have proven to be useful in the development of the scheme. However, the Council can contact the team directly at restoringyourrailway@dft.gov.uk as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

HUW MERRIMAN MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT