



Councillor Keith Aspden
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Restoring Your Railway Team,
Department for Transport,
33 Horseferry Rd,
London,
SW1P 4DR

3rd March 2021

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing as Leader of City of York Council to outline City of York Council's strong support of the proposal to reinstate the rail line running between York and Beverley, which would improve rail connections to and from York, as well as complement a future Haxby stations East – West connectivity on top of the wider rail network connectivity York provides.

More specifically, we see the reinstatement of the York to Beverley Line having a number of positive impacts on the city of York and the wider region, including:

- Further improving the links to the two great university cities and three administrative centres;
- Enabling residents to have greater access to education and health;
- Creating skilled job opportunities, as well as encouraging greater innovation and investment North & East Yorkshire;
- Boosting tourism in both cities and the historic market towns located along the route, many of which will be connected to the rail network for this first time in close to 60 years.

In addition to cutting journey times, the reinstatement of the line will help to reduce congestion on the A1079, which is only going to get busier given the scale of forecast housing growth along the route. It also ties into City of York Council's ambition to make York carbon neutral by 2030, having already declared a climate emergency. Developing better rail links will be an important part of achieving this target.

I understand the proposal has also attracted widespread and cross-party political support, with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council supporting previous bids, along with several Members of Parliament along the route: Graham Stuart MP, Rt Hon. David Davis MP, Julian Sturdy MP, Rachael Maskell MP and Hull North MP the Rt Hon. Dame Diana Johnson.

Finally, City of York Council is developing the case for a new station in Haxby, which will provide over 23,000 residents with access to the rail network. The re-establishment of a rail

line between Beverley and York would complement the new services at Haxby Station, however, it is important for any proposals to reflect the location of Haxby station in order to provide a holistic improvement to rail services across the region.

I look forward to seeing the proposal progress, and I hope my letter of support will help as you consider its merits.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Aspden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin blue horizontal line.

Cllr Keith Aspden
Leader of the Council
City of York Council