

# Get on Board

20 MILES MORE



To

**David Cameron** - Leader of the Conservative Party

**Ed Miliband** - Leader of the Labour Party

**Nick Clegg** - Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

Dear Sirs,

**Twelve months ago 20 Miles More launched an independent grass roots campaign to ensure that Liverpool was an integral part of the HS2 project. As businesses and business organisations in the City Region, we continue to believe we have a direct interest in this issue. Connectivity directly impacts on our success and our capacity to help the city grow a vibrant and prosperous economy.**

Liverpool is currently the largest English city not serviced by HS2 and there are currently no definitive plans to provide the city with a dedicated High Speed line as part of the proposed HS3 East / West link. Over the last 12 months Liverpool has taken its case directly to Government, HS2 Ltd, other key decision-makers and to each of the party political conferences. Businesses, City Region leaders and public bodies have worked together to press home the strong business case for a direct High Speed connection to Liverpool.

*We believe that the next few weeks are a precious opportunity to influence those who will be governing the UK and ultimately making these vital decisions.*

This is not about shaving a few extra minutes off journey times to London or other city destinations. What is at stake here is whether Liverpool remains a major economic centre or becomes an increasingly peripheral branch-line destination.

High Speed connectivity matters to Liverpool because without it we simply lack the rail capacity to realise the potential of the enormous investment in our port expansion. It matters because better connected city regions will inevitably become more attractive investment destinations, and it matters because it is the fastest and most obvious way to kick-start the exciting vision for a Northern Powerhouse. By radically improving connectivity between the two Northern cities (Liverpool and Manchester) with the closest geographic and economic links, we are at last creating an urban centre with the assets and potential to counter-balance London and the South East.

As businesses in the City Region we are investing in Liverpool's future every hour of every day. After decades of decline Liverpool's economy has, in recent years, been growing faster than any other UK city. This growth is being driven by private sector ambition and entrepreneurialism. We believe it's only right that the next Government matches our confidence and commitment by giving our city the infrastructure and connectivity it needs to become a powerful asset to the wider UK economy.

That's why we are now calling directly on the Leaders of all the main UK political parties to commit to the principle of a direct High Speed rail connection to Liverpool. We call on you to work with businesses in the City Region and with all our main public agencies to work out imaginative and sustainable options for funding and delivering this vital piece of economic infrastructure as quickly as possible.

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200 years ago, Liverpool entrepreneurs conceived and delivered the world's first inter-city railway. In the same spirit we invite you to join us in planning a new future for one of the world's most pioneering and inventive cities.

Yours sincerely,

**Bill Addy** - Chair Liverpool BID Company

**Professor Janet Beer** - Vice Chancellor University of Liverpool

**Chris Bliss** - Estates Director Liverpool One

**Tom Bloxham MBE** - Chairman Urban Splash

**Elaine Bowker** - Chief Executive The City of Liverpool College

**Martin Bramley** - Managing Director Eurowrap

**Mark Butchard** - Managing Director Mark Butchard Business Solutions Ltd

**Professor Tom Cannon** - Strategic Development Liverpool University

**Dr John Carter** - Vice Chancellor Edge Hill University

**Emile Coleman** - CEO Elite Sport Technologies

**Graham Cook** - Director Albert Dock Company

**Andrew Cornish** - CEO Liverpool John Lennon Airport

**Lord Derby** - President Liverpool and Sefton Chamber of Commerce

**George Downing** - Chief Executive Downing Developments

**Sudaghara Dusanj** - Managing Director Brewery Village Ltd

**Robert Elstone** - Chief Executive Everton Football Club

**Ray Enfield** - Chairman Rayware

**Antonio Garcia** - Managing Director Blok Architecture

**Charles Gray** - Chief Executive Armitt Group

**John Hall** - Chief Executive Professional Liverpool

**Mike Hanlon** - Chief Executive Maghull Group

**Ian Higby** - Managing Director ACL UK

**Andrew Holroyd** - Senior Partner Jackson Canter

**Tim Johnston** - Chairman AMION Consulting

**Stuart Keppie** - Partner Keppie Massie

**David Lewis** - Senior Partner Weightmans LLP

**Phil McCabe** - Merseyside, West Cheshire and Wigan Federation of Small Business

**Peter McInnes** - Chairman PHD1 Ltd

**Frank McKenna** - Chair Downtown Liverpool in Business

**Ian Meadows** - Executive Chairman R S Clare and Co Ltd

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**Tony Wilson** - Partner Hill Dickinson LLP