



Department
for Transport

Andrew Gwynne MP
William Wragg MP
Navendu Mishra MP
Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
CC: Simon Elliott, Transport for Greater Manchester

From the Minister of State
Chris Heaton-Harris MP

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Our Ref: RYR 363

27 October 2021

Dear Andrew, William, Navendu and Angela,

Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund – RYR 363 Ashton to Stockport

Thank you for your application to the third round of the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund. The scheme has continued to generate a high level of interest, with 89 applications received for this round.

All applications have been evaluated and reviewed by the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund Panel, which I chaired. The Panel comprised of Luke Hall MP, Former Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government, Sir Peter Hendy, Chair of Network Rail, Jackie Sadek, CEO UK Regeneration, and Isabel Dedring, Former London Deputy Mayor for Transport.

I am pleased to confirm that your application has been approved and is currently on track to progress to the next stage of the Restoring Your Railway process.

There will be additional work to complete to specify the details of the work, the funding required and how progress should be reported. This will then lead to a formal agreement. Please do not take any action that could incur costs before this. I have asked my officials to work with Simon Elliot and Transport for Greater Manchester in the coming weeks to agree research remits and appropriate joint governance and timescales.

We will also be holding a launch event in the coming weeks to take you through what we are looking for and how the process works for making the case to progress schemes.

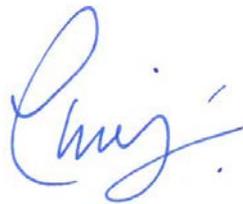
As you may be aware, we have made available the Better Value Rail toolkit to support all those involved in early stages of developing potential rail projects. This is available at www.bettervaluerail.uk and provides a range of practical tools which you will find useful as you begin to develop your SOBC.

We are announcing the progression of bids into the next stage as part of the Budget today. I know this will be welcome news and would be grateful if you could share this information with your constituents and other stakeholders after the announcement has been made. I will be tweeting the news using the campaign hashtag the #RestoringYourRailway and I look forward to engaging with you online.

Congratulations on progressing to the next stage. My officials and I very much look forward to working with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Maidment via email at alex.maidment@dft.gov.uk or alternatively you can email the Restoring your Railway Team at restoringyourrailway@dft.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chris Heaton-Harris MP

Minister of State for Transport