



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Mr Andrew Jones MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

12<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Andrew,

I hope you're well. Congratulations on your appointment as Rail Minister.

I wanted to write to you register my strong support for the King's Lynn Service Enhancement Project. Please find enclosed a copy of an email I recently received from the Head of Strategic Planning (Anglia) at Network Rail, Richard Taylor which provides further details.

As someone who travels regularly on the service between Cambridge and Ely at peak times myself I can confirm how overcrowded the service gets. It really is unacceptable. To say that it's standing room only would be an understatement. There is an extremely strong case for there to be eight-car trains between Cambridge and King's Lynn at peak times. The population of Ely continues to grow at a significant rate as does the number of people commuting between Ely and Cambridge and Ely and London for that matter. When travelling between London and Ely often the journey to Cambridge can be somewhat civilized due to their being eight-car trains but it's the onward journey beyond Cambridge, particularly to Ely where the overcrowding on the four-car trains can be intolerable. Yes, a significant amount of people get off at Cambridge but rest assured that many also get on at Cambridge to go onwards to Ely and beyond

I understand from the email below that Network Rail will be coming to you for an investment decision in February next year. As the elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough I would like to clear my strong support for the bid.

It would be great to be able to meet in the New Year to discuss a number of rail related priorities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.P. Palmer', written over a decorative graphic element consisting of overlapping curved shapes in purple, blue, and green.

James Palmer  
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

The Mayoral Office  
72 Market Street  
Ely, CB7 4LS

**From:** Taylor Richard <[Richard.Taylor2@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Taylor2@networkrail.co.uk)>

**Sent:** 26 November 2018 15:32

**To:** James Palmer <[james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)>; Tom Hunt <[tom.hunt@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:tom.hunt@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Kings Lynn 8 car

Dear James and Tom,

**Re: King's Lynn Service Enhancement Project**

I am writing to update you on Network Rail's project to allow eight-car trains to operate during peak periods between Cambridge and King's Lynn.

Everyone at Network Rail appreciates the desire amongst residents, local representatives and our partners at Great Northern to see this scheme delivered. We know that peak trains on this line are overcrowded just now, and that extending trains would add much-needed capacity in advance of the broader plans for improvements in the Ely area.

Earlier this year we explained to stakeholders that further design work and an access plan would be developed over the summer, and I'm pleased to confirm that good progress has been made in both areas. This has included constructive discussions with operators, through which access to the railway to undertake work has been provisionally secured.

We are pleased to announce that the Department for Transport has now authorised Network Rail to let a contract to our framework contractor Volker Fitzpatrick for detailed design on the scheme – in railway terms, GRIP 5 – and this was awarded on Friday 16 November.

We anticipate submitting these designs and a request for a final investment decision – which would enable scheme construction – to the Department in February next year. This will allow any changes to the programme, anticipated final cost and business case to be considered following detailed design.

Subject to the costs and programme being acceptable to Network Rail and the Department, we will then notify our stakeholders and the wider community about the start of the works and expected delivery dates. This will include the Ely Area Improvements Taskforce, which has a key interest in the scheme.

I hope this information is helpful and I look forward to updating you on progress in February next year.

Kind regards, Richard

**Richard Taylor | Head of Strategic Planning (Anglia) |**

