

HS2 a New Opportunity for a Leigh

Forward

The High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) route for Phase 2, connecting the North West to London, has now been published. It shows the HS2 line passing very close to the site of what was Pennington Station.

Transport for Leigh, Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham MP and Lord Peter Smith, Leader of Wigan Council all believe this represents a massive opportunity for the reinstatement of a rail station, serving not only the people of Leigh, but the region.

Andy Burnham MP, "People in the north-west will be paying for HS2 through their taxes, getting all of the disruption but - as it stands - too few of the benefits. It makes no sense at all for high-speed trains to fly through the heart of the north-west without stopping, past the areas where most people live. This regional interchange on the Liverpool-Manchester axis makes complete transport sense and will open up HS2 to people across our region. We urge people to get behind this campaign."

Ged Tyrrell from the group, "With massive increased demand from businesses and commuters it's vital to the town that we improve transport links to stop gridlock in the region. We believe rail is a critical part of the solution."

Andy Burnham again, "Even during these times of economic hardship demand for rail has shown a year on year increase. Large scale capital projects are one measure to take this country out of recession and grow the economy. Given this strategy, it makes absolute sense to build this station".

Lord Peter Smith, Leader of Wigan Council, also recognises that Leigh is ideally suited for a station. Lord Smith, "The proposed interchange location in the Leigh conurbation is ideal. It offers easy access from the regions roads and motorways and takes advantage of linking the existing Manchester to Liverpool service to HS2 when it arrives".

Working with partners Transport for Leigh has produced detailed costings, which demonstrate the the project is both achievable and affordable.

Ged Tyrrell again, "The work carried out so far is fantastic. What we need now is a strong public show of support to get our station back. This is critical to provide the capacity for economic growth and mobility this area desperately needs, allowing the abundance of creativity and enterprise rooted in this area to flourish and compete nationally and internationally."

"This is a once in a generation opportunity that we can't afford to miss."

Transport for Leigh encourage people to visit their website where they can find further information and fill in a brief online survey, which is essential to establishing more accurately how many people will use the proposed interchange.

www.transportforleigh.org.uk