



**Councillor Sean Anstee**  
**Leader of the Council**

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Robert Goodwill MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport  
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Our ref: SA/ss/HS2  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Robert

It was a pleasure to share a panel with you over at Conservative party conference in Manchester earlier this year at the Bellenden roundtable breakfast.

I am however writing in relation to HS2 and to express my continued frustration at the level of uncertainty that is allowed to continue in Warburton being a small, established and rural village located towards the outskirts of the Trafford boundary.

Trafford Council is supportive of HS2 and has publically expressed this to be the case however in our submission response to the consultation, we raised specific concerns about and opposed the proposed alignment of the route through Warburton known as the Golborne Spur.

I will not rehearse the rationale or arguments we have put forward as I have outlined them on many occasions in previous correspondence with the Department for Transport and HS2 Limited.

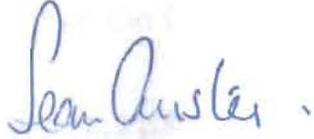
However, I am now led to believe that confirmation of the phase 2 route alignment will now be made in autumn 2016. Whilst I am reluctantly accepting of this position, the Government could and should act now and confirm it is dropping in its entirety consideration of the Golborne Spur and removing it from the proposals.

Not only would this be welcomed by local residents and businesses by removing on-going issues of blight, but it would have no material impact on the phase 2 route planning or future announcements, which could continue as now planned.

Significantly, removing this aspect of the route would realise savings of up to £1bn from the project. Incidentally, this would be a quarter of what the Government now needs towards mitigating tax credit changes.

This approach appears to me to be a relatively simple and popular move to take without significant implications to HS2 as a whole and I look forward with anticipation to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Sean Anstee**  
**Leader of Trafford Council**

c.c. Graham Brady MP  
Cllr Karen Barclay  
Cllr Michael Hyman  
Marion McNaughton – Warburton Parish Council