



Lewes District Council

Southover House
Southover Road
Lewes
BN7 1AB
01273 471600

www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22 February 2018

Dear Mr Grayling

Lewes District Council welcomes the Government's commitment to meet the demand for more capacity on the rail network by restoring lost connections and identifying a new generation of schemes that unlock new housing or economic growth and offer value for money, as set out in 'Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail' presented to Parliament in November 2017.

As you will be aware, the re-instatement of the Lewes to Uckfield railway has long been supported by the District Council, together with Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, the local MPs for Lewes and Wealden, and a number of towns and parishes along the route.

The re-instatement of the Lewes to Uckfield railway has the potential to contribute to sustainable economic growth by improving accessibility to jobs, education and training, by reducing car journeys - and hence congestion and carbon emissions - and by providing an alternative route to the Brighton Main Line during engineering works.

We therefore welcome the Government's commitment to help partners and promoters find the support and expertise they need consider new ways of designing, funding and financing rail capacity and new lines. In this respect, we would be grateful for additional information on how the re-instatement of former railway lines not yet identified in 'Connecting People' will be considered.

Yours sincerely

Aidan Thatcher
Head of Planning