

The Rt Hon Christopher Grayling
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

21st June 2017

Dear Mr Grayling,

cc Chancellor of the Exchequer, Minister of State for Housing and Planning

South London Partnership's support for Crossrail 2

Congratulations on your reappointment as Secretary of State for Transport.

We are writing as the leaders of the five London Boroughs in the South London Partnership to express our strong cross-party support for Crossrail 2 and the importance of reaching a decision to progress with it as soon as possible now the new Government has been established.

The South London Partnership (SLP) consists of Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Sutton and Richmond upon Thames. We are ambitious for our future and the contribution we can make to London's vitality and economy, as well as to that of the UK overall.

Some of our boroughs are among those that will benefit most from Crossrail 2. Currently, the lines serving our area are amongst the most congested and crowded in the entire country and this is only set to get worse as our area grows. But the challenge stretches far beyond our boundary, with crowding and congestion a common feature on services as far afield as the South Coast. Crossrail 2 would provide a huge boost to the capacity of our region's railway, helping not just our residents but people across the entire South East.

We echo the letter from South East and London councils, written on 13th April 2017, emphasising how Crossrail 2 will transform journey times and help relieve congestion from Solent to the Wash. As you'll be well aware, it is also necessary for the country to derive the full benefits from HS2. In the SLP we look both in to central London as well as outwards towards Surrey, Hampshire and Sussex and a regional investment like Crossrail 2 would help improve connectivity in both directions allowing residents across the region to access jobs and opportunities.

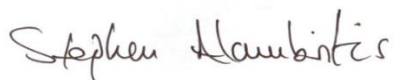
The South London Partnership has major ambitions for sustainable and effective growth in homes and jobs within the sub-region and a track record which has seen us over-deliver against our housing targets by 3,500 in the last ten years as well as creating 17,400 more businesses than we had 5 years ago.

However, our ambitions for growth are highly dependent on greater transport provision, particularly the improvements Crossrail 2 will provide to Clapham Junction and Waterloo stations and the South West Main Line. These services cannot meet current demand and as the region grows in the coming years this will only increase.

We recognise there are strong transport demands for investment across the country and welcome the focus on rebalancing growth across the UK, but we do not believe investment in infrastructure to support growth should be a case of either/or, especially with London able to find half the funding for Crossrail 2. Crossrail 2 is an excellent investment which will help unlock growth and improve connectivity to the advantage of the whole country.

Yours sincerely,

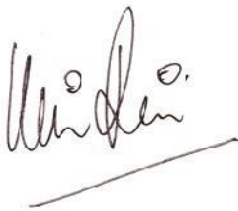
Cllr Stephen Alambritis
Leader, Merton Council
Chair, South London Partnership



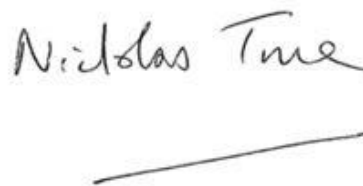
Cllr Tony Newman
Leader, Croydon Council



Cllr Kevin Davis
Leader, Kingston upon Thames Council



Cllr Lord Nick True
Leader, Richmond upon Thames Council



Cllr Ruth Dombey
Leader, Sutton Council

