

From:- Councillor Nick Clarke

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The Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Minister of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
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26 January 2012

Dear Minister

Chesterton Station

You will recall the very positive discussions that we had last year, regarding the proposals for a station and transport interchange to serve the Cambridge Science Park cluster and surrounding residential areas and growth sites of north Cambridge and on the route of the Busway. As part of those discussions, you indicated that as long as the business case for the station is positive, you would include it in the forthcoming rail franchises.

Since our meeting, my officers have made excellent progress with your Department, and last week resubmitted updated information relating to the Business Case for the station which shows that this is strongly positive, and indeed has strengthened with the latest iteration. There is further work to do; a particular focus of work in the immediate future will be to complete the GRIP3 report, which will confirm in more detail the costs involved in delivering the station. However, we see this very much as a refinement, and all the work to date demonstrates that the costs of the station will be very easily covered by the revenues from passengers.

Given this point, and as there has been no indication from your Department that the figures presented on either costs or revenues are unreasonable assumptions, I would like your confirmation that when the detailed analysis noted above is complete and discussions on franchise mechanisms are concluded, provided at that stage the costs and revenue position remains positive for all parties, that Chesterton will be included in the specifications for the upcoming Thameslink and long term Greater Anglia franchises.



These assurances will allow us to take the decision to proceed with the further design work for the station, and so hasten its delivery. As part of this, I am seeking to confirm at this point that Cambridgeshire County Council will borrow to deliver the station and interchange. I would welcome your endorsement of this approach, and confirmation that you are in agreement with the position in relation to scheme development that I have outlined above.

I look forward to your early reply and to continuing to work with you on this exciting project.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Nick Clarke
Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council