

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This strategy sets out how Leeds City Region will work with Government, business, schools, colleges and universities to maximise the benefits of HS2. The HS2 Growth Taskforce recommended in 2014 that HS2 could transform city region economies, but only if concerted action is taken to get our people, businesses, cities and local transport networks ready to make the most of the opportunity. It reflects the priorities in the Government's Industrial Strategy.

With a population of 3 million and a £66.5 billion annual economy, Leeds City Region is significant in the context of the national economy and the Northern Powerhouse. Our economy is growing, with recent private sector jobs growth in cities such as Leeds and Wakefield amongst the highest levels nationally. Productivity levels are also increasing in comparison to the national average. We have a young, entrepreneurial population, excellent universities and real strengths in sectors such as manufacturing, financial and professional services, health and life sciences, and digital.

TRANSFORMING THE CITY REGION ECONOMY

HS2 and other transport improvements will bring new markets within reach of our businesses, connect people to new and more productive jobs, and support the clustering of high growth firms in our urban centres.

We will position HS2 at the centre of a coherent strategy for improving the rail and transport network serving Leeds City Region. It will be integrated with enhanced

inter-urban links across the north (Northern Powerhouse Rail), particularly a new fast east-west link between York, Leeds, Bradford and Manchester, and also between Leeds and Sheffield. Our strategy includes upgrades to existing rail lines, to secure improvements before HS2 is built, and to spread the benefits of HS2 and utilise the capacity it releases.

We estimate that the interventions set out in this HS2 Growth Strategy will result in the creation of around 40,000 additional jobs in Leeds City Region by 2050. This job creation relates to the local connectivity, regeneration, skills and supply chain initiatives set out in this strategy; it does not include the jobs that will be created by HS2 itself, jobs that will be created by more general growth in the economy, and jobs displaced from elsewhere. It is a conservative estimate, but one we believe is robust. However, building on the positive forecasts for the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review and for the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy, it is plausible that the HS2 Growth Strategy interventions could contribute to productivity gains and regeneration benefits that would result in up to 50,000 further additional jobs in Leeds City Region by 2050.

A STEP CHANGE IN CONNECTIVITY FOR THE CITY REGION

We will spread the benefits of major national transport investment through achieving a step change in connectivity within our city region. This will enable the separate towns and cities of Leeds City Region to function as a more integrated economic area, bringing significant productivity gains and enabling people to access a wider

range of jobs. There will be more capacity on the rail and public transport network, faster and more frequent services, improved interchanges, better ticketing and travel information, and widespread use of new technology to improve transport.

CREATING A WORLD CLASS GATEWAY AT LEEDS STATION

We will transform Leeds Station, already the busiest transport hub in the north, to create a world class gateway providing seamless interchange for people changing trains, increased rail capacity, and improved concourse areas.

The Leeds Integrated Station Masterplan sets out a long term framework for the future development of Leeds Station. It has been produced through commissioning of a world class design team by Leeds City Council, HS2 Ltd, Network Rail, and Transport for the North, with input from the Department for Transport, and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The scheme will incorporate commercial development, which will contribute to the financing of the project. It will support the growth of Leeds City Centre through development adjacent to the station and enhanced public realm.

A CATALYST FOR REGENERATION

We will use HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and improvements to our city region transport network to accelerate regeneration and development in our urban



centres, next to our main transport hubs. Through the South Bank Leeds and the Leeds Innovation District projects we will double the size and economic contribution of Leeds City Centre. We will deliver major regeneration projects at York Central, Bradford's City Centre Growth Zone, at Merchant Gate and Rutland Mills in Wakefield, in Halifax (building on the momentum created by the renovation of the Piece Hall), at HD One and the town centre in Huddersfield, and major retail and leisure schemes in Harrogate.

INSPIRING OUR PEOPLE

We will use HS2 as a catalyst and focus for raising awareness of young people to the range of jobs that will be available in transport, engineering, infrastructure and the future knowledge economy. We will work with our businesses, universities, colleges (including the HS2 College at Doncaster) and schools to support people into these jobs, with a particular focus on increasing the proportion of women working in these sectors.

DEVELOPING OUR BUSINESSES AND SUPPLY CHAIN

We will establish Leeds City Region as a world leading hub for innovation and expertise in rail engineering. We will support supply chain development and attract inward investment from firms that want to co-locate alongside the University of Leeds Institute for High Speed Rail and Systems Integration, the University of Huddersfield Rail Institute, and York's concentration of rail engineering firms.

A MAGNET FOR INVESTMENT AND A CULTURAL DESTINATION

We will use HS2 to continue to enhance the image and profile of our city region as a place to invest, to visit and to build a career, making the most of our fantastic cultural assets.

IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION

We have set out a series of detailed proposals to implement this strategy, bringing together investments across a wide range of different national, city region and local funding programmes, encompassing transport, housing, regeneration, education and skills, and economic development projects.

An integrated approach to funding and implementation will be needed across Government and local partners. We have set out how we will bring together local funding streams, how we could capture some of the value uplift in Leeds from HS2, and the funding from Government needed to progress the projects set out in this HS2 Growth Strategy.