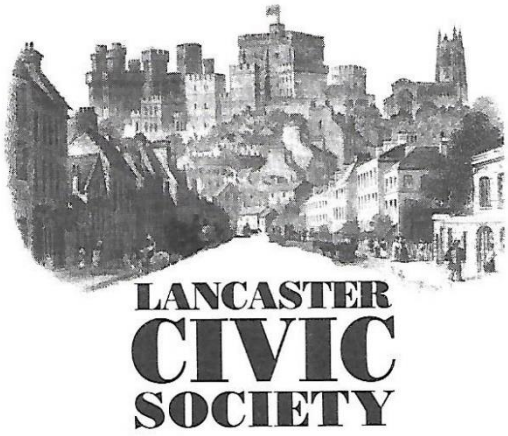


James D Wilkie

LANCASTER
Email: jamesdwilkie@sky.com

The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

1st October 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Lancaster Civic Society – HS2 – Concerns re loss of direct rail to London

Lancaster Civic Society are extremely concerned about the possibility of Lancaster losing its direct rail connection to London.

In September Lancaster City Council Cabinet considered a report on the impact of HS2 on the city. This revealed that last year, HS2 Ltd produced a report titled PFMv9 (PLANET Framework Mode Assumptions Report).

The Report aimed to provide a summary of modelling and forecasting assumptions to generate part of the economic business case for the project. It establishes a set of train services which HS2 expected to operate, and changes to the existing ('classic') rail network services once HS2 opens.

The impacts highlighted in the Cabinet report include the loss of Lancaster's direct service to London when the first phase of HS2 opens, and the loss of the slower service direct to London which runs via Birmingham New Street when all phases of HS2 are open.

The loss of a direct rail service to London would result in a marked deterioration in the City's rail connectivity. If implemented, Lancaster to London travellers would change to a HS2 train at Preston. Whilst the overall end-to-end journey time would be quicker than the current journey time, the psychological barrier of a change of train is likely to be off-putting to some travellers.

In addition, the removal of a direct Lancaster to London rail service would cause significant damage to perceptions of the prestige of the city, and impact on its attractiveness as a business location.

We understand that at present this is a proposal and no final decision has been taken. We would urge HS2 Ltd to immediately reject this possibility and confirm that the direct rail link between Lancaster and London is fully retained.

We take the view that any such action on behalf of HS2 Ltd would, as far as Lancaster is concerned, significantly undermine your commitment to 'Levelling Up'

This threat to Lancaster's direct rail connection to London will blight our ability to retrain and attract investment in the future. We would therefore ask that you intervene to ensure that HS2 Ltd eliminate this option from their planning assumptions.

Yours faithfully,

J. Wilkie

James Wilkie
Hon. Secretary
For and on behalf of Lancaster Civic Society