

Transport for Buckinghamshire

Head of Transport Jim Stevens

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

County Hall, Walton Street  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1UY

Telephone 0845 2302882

[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

Mike Fawcett  
Department of Transport  
Rm3/26a  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DR

**Date:** 15 April 2010

Dear Mr Fawcett

### **Heathrow Airport High Speed Rail Access Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Heathrow Airport High Speed Rail Access Review. Please note that we are doing this without prejudice to our formal response to the HS2 consultation in the autumn.

From the work done so far by HS2, it is evident that the business case for enhanced access to Heathrow from HS2 via an 'in airport' or 'near airport' station has not been proved. The HS2 Ltd report offers estimates on the increase in cost to the HS2 project that would result in an 'in airport' or 'near airport' station, these are quite considerable given the estimated percentage of market for access to Heathrow by HS2 when compared with the London market.

Buckinghamshire County Council recognises the value in improving western rail links into Heathrow. We suggest that the review takes into account the findings of the Atkins report (2009) into Western Access to Heathrow which concludes that a link through Reading, Maidenhead and Slough to Heathrow would provide excellent connectivity and also the 'Heathrow Compass Point Network' as suggested in the 'Heathrow and High Speed Rail' report, commissioned by the 2M Group and published in July 2009.

Buckinghamshire County Council is concerned that the proposal for an 'in airport' or 'near airport' station has not been fully investigated in terms of its detrimental impacts that include amongst others:

- Impact of construction of such a large new station
- Impact of the rail lines being rerouted (including impacts of tunneling)
- Possibility of it becoming a park and ride and therefore encouraging users to use their cars rather than the train adversely impacting on the local and strategic road network in its vicinity
- Honey pot affect would attract much more traffic to local highway network
- Impact on Green belt and potential agglomeration pressures

**national  
transport awards**  
Transport Local Authority of the Year  
2008 Winners



- Impact on surrounding area of construction of flood plain (in the case of the Iver hub)
- Concerns over the water table
- Concerns over the need to move Iver water treatment works and the disruption to water services that may ensue (in the case of the Iver hub)
- Detrimental impact of construction and permanent infrastructure on the Colne Valley Park as well as potential conflict with the South East Plan's stance on Colne Valley

Buckinghamshire County Council would suggest that these would be considerable impacts that would have a harmful effect on the quality of life of residents, the local environment and the local transport network.

To conclude Buckinghamshire County Council would strongly suggest that more time is given to investigate how Heathrow links with HS2, with particular regard given to the detrimental impact of the suggestions on the local community, environment and transport networks. We would welcome a meeting to discuss in more depth the implications for the County and to be involved in the ongoing discussion and any decision made.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Bellamy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the "Yours sincerely," text.

Tim Bellamy  
Transport and Regeneration Manager  
T: (01296) 383895  
E: t-bellamy@buckscc.gov.uk