

By email to [pnedge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pnedge@yahoo.co.uk)

Mr P Edge  
Chair, Langport Transport Group

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Phil

### **Restoring Your Railways: Station for Somerton and Langport Strategic Outline Business Case**

The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership supports the principle of a new railway station to serve the communities of Somerton and Langport, together with a train service that will give regular opportunities for travel to Taunton, Frome and Westbury.

The section of railway line between Taunton and Castle Cary has been without a local train service since all the intermediate stations were closed in the 1960s. At 28 miles it is the longest section of route without any local stations in the South West. This has left the communities of Somerton and Langport isolated from the rail network and dependent on road based transport, despite the fact that the railway line passes through their towns.

The provision of a new station for Somerton and Langport will give residents and businesses access to the rail network for journeys to work, education and training, retail and leisure. It will also make Somerton and Langport more attractive locations for business, and will enhance connectivity for the wider area of Southern Somerset including towns such as Martock, Street and Glastonbury.

The LEP strongly supports the reconnection of communities to the rail network. This is fully consistent with Government's objective of decarbonising transport, and in tune with the LEP's Blueprint for Clean Growth. We wish you every success with the submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case to the Department for Transport.

Yours sincerely



David Ralph  
Chief Executive

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Mobile: 07543 219390 email: [david.ralph@heartofswlep.co.uk](mailto:david.ralph@heartofswlep.co.uk)

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