



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon. Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham St  
Westminster  
London  
SW1P 4DF

27 November 2017

Dear Sajid,

**Forward Funding Application to the HCA's Housing Infrastructure Fund**

I am writing to you regarding Watford Council's bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund for the Metropolitan Line Extension (MLX). The bid is for between £50 million and £74 million. This funding, on top of the £284.4 million already secured, would ensure this vital project goes ahead.

MLX is absolutely critical to unlocking the housing potential of Watford and South West Hertfordshire and provides a significant opportunity to support London's continued growth over the coming years. But to progress the project, a new funding package needs to be agreed before the end of the year.

The MLX scheme has the benefit of a Transport Works Act Order (TWAO), following a public enquiry which provides land assembly and CPO powers. But this Order will expire in summer 2018 if it has not been effected. TfL have made clear that the funding has to be in place by the end of December 2017 to enable procurement and land transactions to take place before the Order lapses. It is therefore essential to get a decision in principle on HIF funding by 31 December 2017. This would be in advance of the indicative timescale for HIF decisions which is spring 18.

MLX extends the Underground line to Watford Junction Station via 2 new stations. The new stations (Cassiobridge at Western Gateway and Vicarage Rd at Riverwell) plus termination at Watford Junction will make these sustainable, well connected neighbourhoods. Without MLX they lose their justification, becoming dense and unsustainable developments on the edge of town, relying on private cars.

Should the scheme not achieve a full funding package then TfL have indicated they would be unable to deliver the scheme. There is no deliverable lower cost alternative that would provide the same connectivity, level of service and sustainability in transport terms. The majority of significant housing and commercial development identified in Watford's Local Plan is contingent on MLX being in place.



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Hertfordshire's LEP identified the project as the main infrastructure scheme within their 2015 SEP as it unlocks £940m of projects in Watford and generates £10.4bn of economic output, much of which would be significantly at risk should this not go ahead.

MLX would be transformational for Watford and South West Hertfordshire, and I believe it would bring significant benefit for the boroughs of Hillingdon and Harrow in my constituency. If a funding package is not agreed before the end of the year, it will not happen.

Given all the above, I would be grateful if you could look favourably on this bid, and also make a decision before the end of the year.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Hurd".

**Nick Hurd MP**

**Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner**

**cc. David Gauke MP and Richard Harrington MP**