

1 1) Conference Notes

- 2 a. On the 19th July HS2, HS/2 Phase 2b has been given a red
3 'unachievable' rating by the Infrastructure Projects Authority.
4 b. The 'Y-shaped' branches of the line between Crewe and Leeds
5 and Manchester were given the above rating in the IPA's
6 latest annual major projects report. The body delivered its
7 assessment of 184 projects, evaluating the likelihood of them
8 achieving their "aims and objectives" and doing so "on time
9 and on budget".
10 c. This red rating means: "Successful delivery of the project
11 appears to be unachievable. There are major issues with
12 project definition, schedule, budget, quality and/or benefits
13 delivery, which at this stage do not appear to be manageable
14 or resolvable. The project may need re-scoping and/or its
15 overall viability reassessed."
16 d. Phase 2b is at a much earlier stage of development than
17 phase one and 2a and has not yet received royal assent. Last
18 week it emerged that the project's leaders expect MPs to start
19 examining plans for the Manchester to Crewe western leg of
20 phase 2b in December.
21 e. The Department for Transport said the whole HS2 scheme
22 was reset last year alongside the decision to go ahead, which
23 has led to increased ministerial oversight, revised budget and
24 schedule ranges and regular reporting to Parliament.
25 f. Earlier this month, the DfT launched a £300m framework to
26 carry out ground investigations on the phase 2b route.
27 g. Phase one received an amber/red rating in the IPA's report,
28 meaning: "Successful delivery of the project is in doubt, with
29 major risks or issues apparent in a number of key areas.
30 Urgent action is needed to address these problems and/or
31 assess whether resolution is feasible."
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33 2) Conference Believes that:

- 34 a. HS2 in its full form represents a major improvement in rail
35 connectivity between the North West and Midlands with the
36 South East and beyond.
37 b. The additional capacity created by freeing paths on the West
38 Coast main line offers opportunities to improve regional and
39 local passenger services, especially in East Cheshire for
40 example, and for freight throughout the Region
41 c. Stations such as Carlisle, Lancaster, Preston and Wigan would
42 benefit from reduced journey times to and from the South
43 East with three trains an hour and an additional hourly service
44 commencing at Lancaster.
45 d. Similar benefits will apply to Crewe, Liverpool and
46 Manchester.

- 47 e. Would enable direct trains between the North West and
48 European destinations.
49 f. The proposals to create a wildlife corridor alongside the route
50 offer a chance to improve biodiversity within the Region
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52 3) **Conference Calls for**

- 53 a. Continued investment in Rail infrastructure across the North
54 in order to facilitate a modal shift from road to rail with full
55 electrification as a key objective.
56 b. The Parliamentary Party to press for this and for through
57 running to Europe with all formalities on the train at every
58 opportunity.
59 c. Liberal Democrat Councillors in the North West to support
60 HS2b although recognising that construction works may
61 present difficulties.
62 d. An all party commitment to the funding and delivery of both
63 HS2 Phase 2b and the remainder of the Transport for the
64 North Strategic Rail Programme; Northern Powerhouse Rail,
65 the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU), and other elements of
66 the Integrated Rail Programme (IRP). This would achieve
67 accelerated electrification schemes, other track and signalling
68 improvements and the provision of longer and more
69 comfortable regional trains running east-west as well as
70 north-south.
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