



**High Speed Rail
(Crewe–Manchester) Bill
Select Committee**

Councillor Bev Craig
Manchester City Council
P.O. Box 532
Town Hall
Manchester
M60 2LA

5 July 2023

Dear Councillor Craig,

I hope this letter finds you well.

First, I would like to thank you and your colleagues from the Greater Manchester Partners (Manchester City Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and Transport for Greater Manchester) for appearing before my Committee last month and making your case for the provision of an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly. We found the hearings, and the evidence presented by both the promoter and the petitioners, highly informative.

The Committee is currently carefully considering the matter of the location of the new high-speed station at Manchester Piccadilly, as we are particularly seized by the importance of this issue and the broader consequences for the North. In order to make our decision on this issue, we would like to ask you for some further information on the options for funding the below-ground station option.

In your appearance before us last month, you told us that the Greater Manchester Partners would be open to working with the Government to develop a funding strategy to meet the additional investment required to support the development of an underground station. Could you please provide us with some further information in writing on what the Greater Manchester Partners' proposals are regarding contributions (from either local government or private sector funding) to the extra costs required by the underground station proposal, to what extent this funding proposal has been discussed with potential internal or external investment partners, what indications of support have been received, and how much you hope or expect to be able to raise?

I am sure you can appreciate that cost and value for money are key issues for the Committee when considering this issue. With this in mind, I kindly ask that you respond by Monday 17 July to allow us time to consider your response.

Yours truly,

Andrew Percy MP

Chair, High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill Select Committee