



**TEES VALLEY MAYOR**  
**BEN HOUCHEN**

Office of the Mayor of the Tees Valley  
Cavendish House  
Stockton-on-Tees  
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Jesse Norman MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

30 June 2017

*Dear Minister,*

As the newly elected Mayor of the Tees Valley, my focus is on driving economic growth and job creation in the area. I work in partnership with the five councils of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton, working closely with the business community and other partners to make decisions that support the growth of the local, northern and national economy. My election provides a unique opportunity to extend a strong partnership with national government, co-investing to improve our local infrastructure, and our connectivity within the UK and internationally.

I am therefore pleased to present the Tees Valley's application to the National Productivity Investment Fund. This initiative is a valuable opportunity to address barriers to connectivity. We have focused specifically on a key route network to connect areas of economic opportunity, including our Enterprise Zones, housing growth sites, Port and Airport, with the strategic route network, and population centres which improve the catchment area for local jobs.

The proposals contained within this application have been prioritised into a package of sensible interventions by my Combined Authority, demonstrating the value of the partnerships which have been strengthened by our devolution deal and the new mayoral leadership arrangements.

I am confident that the overall proposal meets the objectives of the National Productivity Investment Fund and contributes to a number of key local and national objectives. It aligns with investment on the A19 and A66, which we are working on jointly with your department and Highways England.

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I am confident that our package proposal makes a significant contribution to the delivery of our Strategic Economic Plan, the objectives of Transport for the North and those of the government's Industrial Strategy. The schemes we have prioritised will improve the performance and productivity of the Tees Valley, and enable key businesses within the Transport sector to grow by improving their ability to access and distribute goods and services.

I look forward to working with you and your team to deliver these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

**Ben Houchen**

Mayor of the Tees Valley

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