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Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

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Our ref: SN/JC/kj

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Date: 19.1.18

Rt Hon. Chris Grayling, M.P.
The Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport and Works Act Orders Unit
Department for Transport
Zone 1/14-18,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London
SW1P 4DR

By email to:- transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Grayling,

Midland Metro (Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Land Acquisition) Order

As Dudley MBC, we are fully supportive of the proposed Metro Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension (WBHE) and the Transport and Works Act Order application that was submitted by the West Midlands Combined Authority on 12 December 2017.

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension is vital to the future economic wellbeing of Dudley and Sandwell, the Black Country and indeed the wider West Midlands.

It will help to unlock and support key regeneration projects including

- The recently declared Enterprise Zone at DY5 (Brierley Hill) which is projected to create 7000 jobs and 300 new business start ups during its life and contribute £600m to the local economy
- The Metro Line opens up sites along this new transport corridor for housing and employment purposes which will assist to protect greenfield and greenbelt land from development
- There are 4,936 businesses located within 2km of the metro extension; 395 of those are identified as strategic companies by the LEP. The Metro will improve connectivity to these businesses.

- The renaissance of Dudley Town Centre including a major mixed use development will be enhanced by the Metro and the proposed new bus interchange .
- The strong Visitor Economy offer in Dudley, with the Zoo, Castle, Canal Trust and Living Museum which have recently benefitted from a £12million award of Heritage Lottery Funding for further extension and development, will benefit greatly from the Metro route running adjacent to the attractions
- Key regeneration initiatives along the route such as the proposed 'Very Light Rail' initiative, in partnership with Warwick Manufacturing Group
- The planned partnership with Dudley College to create a 'University Centre'
- The proposed development of a Music Institute at Waterfront provides the opportunity to deliver NVQ level 4 and above qualifications in a range of skills for which there will be a future demand.
- Metro will be vital to ensure workers and students can reach these facilities and other employers along the route cheaply and quickly.

We are on the verge of a renaissance that will help the West Midlands achieve its ambitions of delivering sustainable economic growth for its communities and this Metro extension is critical to that process.

To this end, we are therefore fully supportive of the Midland Metro (Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Land Acquisition) Order and hope you will take this into consideration in agreeing the order.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Norman
Chief Executive.