

February 14, 2018

Leo Goodwin  
Managing Director  
TransPennine Express  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Bridgewater House,  
60 Whitworth Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6LT

Dear Mr Goodwin,

### **Downgrading of TransPennine Express rail services from Hull in May 2018**

The Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce has already made clear to you our concerns over the timetable changes to train services between Hull and Manchester. We made representations through the consultation process in conjunction with Hull City Council, and also wrote to you directly expressing our concerns relating to the possible effects on businesses, so we are disappointed to see these changes are still planned to be implemented in May.

The Chamber believes good transport links are vital to the economic wellbeing of the Humber region and effective rail links are integral to this. The Chamber has previously lobbied for extending the current service beyond Manchester Piccadilly to Manchester Airport and Liverpool. There has been a consistent view from our members that the frequency of services between Hull and Leeds should also be doubled to provide a half-hourly service.

The proposals set out by TransPennine Express worsen, not improve the current service, adding an average of six minutes to journey times and we feel this is unacceptable at a time when rail links between the largest cities in the Northern Powerhouse of the country should be improved, and not downgraded. Hull's year as UK City of Culture fuelled a boost in both tourism and business travel, we feel strongly that nothing should happen which could therefore undermine this growth which is vital for Hull's continuing renaissance as a destination city.

The Chamber is particularly disappointed at the proposal to increase the number of stops on the Hull to Manchester service to 10 intermediate stations as this represents a significant downgrading of our rail connectivity and efficiency.

As previously indicated, we are now taking this matter forward with our Parliamentary



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representatives and are inviting you to attend a meeting here in Hull with our MPs and Hull Council.

Hull MP Diana Johnson has agreed to lead with the other local MPs on this issue and Transport for the North representatives will also be present, along with our independent rail experts and business leaders, so you can learn first-hand of this area's concerns.

We look forward to arranging a meeting with you and our MPs in Hull as soon as a suitable date can be identified. To this end, will you please forward to my colleague David Hooper (d.hooper@hull-humber-chamber.co.uk) a selection of Friday dates when you are available to join us in Hull.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ian Kelly  
Chief Executive  
Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce

CC: Diana Johnson MP  
Emma Hardy MP  
Karl Turner MP  
Matt Jukes – (Chief Executive) Hull City Council  
Cllr Martin Mancey – (Transport Portfolio Holder) Hull City Council