

North West Cardiff Group

Responding to the concerns of our communities

Creigiau

Danescourt

Gwaelod y Garth

Llandaff

Pentyrch

Radyr & Morganstown

St Fagans

Christine Chapman AM
Cynon Valley

Old Church Rooms
Park Road
Radyr
Cardiff CF15 8DF

September 2, 2014

Dear Ms Chapman,

The Metro: Transforming the Cardiff Capital Region

The North West Cardiff Group comprises Radyr & Morganstown Community Council, St Fagans Community Council, Pentyrch Community Council, the Llandaff Society, the Radyr & Morganstown Association and the Danescourt Community Association. Together we represent over 24,000 people or 7% of Cardiff's population.

We are delighted with the vision and leadership shown by the Welsh Government in promoting the Metro concept and the regional structures needed to make it happen. However, the Metro will only be able to make the transformative change in the quality and sustainability of the Cardiff Capital Region if the concept is fully supported by the planning system. This affects your constituency, hence our letter to you.

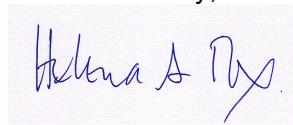
Economic development in the South Wales Valleys is a long-standing challenge and we believe that the mobility that the Metro will bring could be transformative for the region. The Metro must, therefore, be the first transport choice for work and leisure. This can be ensured through planning policy and decisions that build new communities around Metro routes and extend and upgrade existing routes through existing communities. This will be vital to ensure operational viability of the Metro in the longer term. Bus services cannot be relied upon to provide such an option – they are traditionally the last resort, being slow and unreliable compared with fixed-track public transport.

The current focus in Cardiff's LDP of greenfield and M4-based sites - in addition to large sites already under construction elsewhere along the M4 corridor - before the Metro route is confirmed carries huge risks. We fear it will result in losing potential capital funding from increased land values as house builders rush to gain approval before CIL provisions bite, and set yet more car-dependent unsustainable development patterns in tarmac and concrete.

We have already made substantial contributions to the LDP process in Cardiff, and will be pursuing these at the forthcoming Public Examination with a view to persuading the Inspector to make crucial changes to the Plan including clear phasing.

We know that growth is inevitable, but we need a planning system in Wales that delivers benefits for all, rather than profits for the few.

Yours sincerely,



Helena Fox

Clerk to R&MCC on behalf of the North West Cardiff Group

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