

# North West Cardiff Group

Responding to the concerns of our communities

Creigiau Danescourt Gwaelod y Garth Llandaff Pentyrch Radyr & Morganstown St Fagans

Edwina Hart, MBE CStJ, AM  
Minister For Economy, Science And Transport

Old Church Rooms  
Park Road  
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Cardiff CF15 8DF

September 1, 2014

Dear Minister,

## **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 24,050 people (Census 2011) or 7% of Cardiff's population. The three Community Councils are elected representatives of 15,053 (Census 2011) residents with a statutory role in their communities.

We are delighted with the vision and leadership you have shown in promoting and steering the development of the Metro concept and the regional structures needed to make it happen.

This chimes with one of our key objectives over the past 3 years: to secure a sustainable planning context for North West Cardiff in Cardiff's Local Development Plan (LDP). We believe that this is vital to provide for economic growth that benefits the whole Cardiff Capital Region.

We welcomed your recent announcement on the Metro and the accompanying update report. We urge you to go further and, particularly, to give more certainty on the Metro for Cardiff's LDP which would be very helpful in planning properly sustainable communities. However, from our perspective, progress on translating the Metro concept into a deliverable project appears slow. Other transport schemes such as the M4 Relief Road are higher up the list of current priorities. We are concerned this may mean that the Metro may never materialise.

We trust that you will ensure that income is maintained from a range of sources, including that from the Severn Crossing, to invest in the capital and revenue cost of vital infrastructure including the Metro.

This is important because the drive to allocate housing and employment sites in the LDP before the Metro route is confirmed in outer areas, the City Centre and the Bay, risks not only losing a potential income stream from sharing increased land values, but sets a car-dependent development pattern in tarmac and concrete, thus reducing future potential revenue streams.

A significant potential contribution to the funding of the Metro has already been lost from housing land allocated in the Llantrisant area in RCT's adopted LDP, which, because of its road-dominated layouts, has consigned yet more households to unsustainable dependency on private transport.

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We also fear that the major allocation of employment land with direct access to the M4 Junction 33 in Cardiff's LDP (with a wide range of potential uses) risks being developed for a major retail hub in a similar way to the industrial land allocations at Culverhouse Cross. The potential for major trip generation on a critical M4 junction must be of concern.

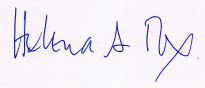
We hope that you can help resolve some of the significant transport problems which are holding back the Cardiff Capital Region. The Metro presents a 'once-in-a-lifetime' transformative opportunity to shape a European-style capital region which could re-energise and connect the Valleys as well as the City.

We were thus pleased to hear from Roger Lewis, when we met him recently, that he is working with local authority leaders on the Cardiff Capital Region Board with a view to supporting delivery of the Metro. It is clearly important that the right strategic decisions are made over the next few months to make the vision a reality, with national and local government working together at both political, executive and operational levels as happens in our counterpart regions in England and Europe, and in cities such as Stuttgart and Nantes.

We are keen to be constructive and not NIMBYish. Growth is inevitable, but we believe that businesses and citizens will be more supportive of developments such as the Metro that serve wider public - not just private – interests and increase sustainable living.

That is why we trust that you will set up a Public Transport Executive for the Capital Region to drive forward not only the capital project but to introduce the smart ticketing that will be key to encouraging and retaining patronage of the Metro.

Yours sincerely,



Helena Fox

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

Cc Mark Drakeford, AM