

Our ref:
Your ref: KTD/dg/st
Date: 19th February 2025



Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Letter by Email
FTAO: James Bowen

Dear Mr Bowen

Kidsgrove Station and the Local Transport Fund allocation for Staffordshire

The revitalisation of Kidsgrove Railway Station is an anchor project in the Town Deal programme for Kidsgrove. An allocation of £3.69 million has been made by the Town Deal Board and forms part of the approved Town Investment Plan.

The station infrastructure is ageing and holding back economic growth in Kidsgrove. The Town Deal funding offers a generational opportunity to upgrade the station as a strategic commuter facility that is fit for purpose for 21st century commuter expectations and supports the long-term economic growth of Kidsgrove town.

There is a significant challenge presented to the project by historic mining activity, which has left a complex and potentially costly remediation scenario of worked coal seams and voids. The Town Deal Board has been advised that no physical improvement work can ever be carried out at Kidsgrove station without a comprehensive site ground investigation (GI), which has a cost attached of £680,000.

Current indications are that to deliver any improvement to the Station a significant amount of ground remediation is required, estimated at £2m but potentially higher, which would significantly dilute the impact of Town Deal funding to improve the above ground rail facilities and site infrastructure.

The Board remains very keen to leave a legacy of a significantly upgraded transport facility that achieves its potential for the town of Kidsgrove and its residents.

The contribution of Local Transport Fund (LTF) to this project is vital to secure a positive outcome. We are seeking urgent clarification on when the LTF allocation will become available for Staffordshire. We also seek your support in advocating for the contribution of LTF to the Kidsgrove Railway Station project. The Board needs clarity on the funding position at the earliest opportunity to make informed decisions on this key project within the Town Investment Plan.

We note that in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement a commitment was given to provide over £650 million of funding to ensure that transport connections improve in our towns, villages and rural areas as well as in our major cities. We advocate that Kidsgrove be considered as an urgent deliverable within that commitment.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Gray'.

Dan Gray
Chair, Kidsgrove Town Deal Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Tagg'.

Simon Tagg
Vice-chair, Kidsgrove Town Deal Board
Leader, Newcastle-under-Lyme BC