

## **Letter of Funding Confidence**

### **FAO:**

The Borough Council of Calderdale  
Town Hall  
Crossley Street  
Halifax  
HX1 1UK

**Date:** 28th May 2025

Dear Sirs,

### **Funding of Elland Access Package Project**

#### **Summary of Project to date**

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (the “Combined Authority”) is expected to deliver the new railway station at Elland on the Leeds-Huddersfield line, with two platforms on a raised embankment with lift, step and ramp access and a park-and-ride car park serving the station. It is working collaboratively with both the Borough Council of Calderdale (“the Council”) and Network Rail (NR) to do so.

It is proposed that the Council will acquire the land required (which in some/all respects may involve the use by the Council of compulsory purchase orders) and the Combined Authority and the Council have entered into indemnity and grant funding agreements to facilitate this.

On completion of the compulsory purchase procedures, the Council will transfer the land required for the new station to Network Rail and the Combined Authority propose to build the new station under a licence from Network Rail.

The Council is expected to deliver the Elland Access Package Improvements (the “Project”) to the new station from within Elland, West Vale and the wider area which includes:

- two new pedestrian and cycle bridges crossing the River Calder and Calder Hebble Navigation,
- improvements to existing pedestrian routes
- improvements to the cycle network, and
- enhancements for public spaces.

The Combined Authority are aware that the Council have issued a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) (Elland Station West Vale Access Package) (West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, Transforming Cities Fund) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022 for the purposes of delivering the Project.

In order to assist in delivery of the new railway station at Elland the Council has also made, and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing and Communities has confirmed on 18 July 2024, the Borough Council of Calderdale (Elland Station) (West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022 (CPO) for the railway station.

The Council has requested that the Combined Authority provides details of the sources of funding for the implementation of the Project and confirmation of the timing of the availability of the funding for disclosure at a public inquiry in respect of the CPO for the Project.

The Combined Authority regards delivery of the railway station and the access improvements as a priority scheme and these are aligned with the Combined Authority's following strategic priorities:

- West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan
- Tackling the climate emergency and protect our environment.
- Enabling Inclusive Growth.
- Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transport.

Through improved accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists within Elland town centre and extending to the future rail station, a key objective of the Project is to provide better links to public transport, employment, education and leisure sites both locally and within the region. The Project is therefore also aligned with commitments in the Mayoral 2024 Manifesto of the Mayor of West Yorkshire to:

- Ensure access to culture and grassroots sport for every child.
- Develop West Yorkshire as a region of learning with a new skills and training system

#### Elland Rail Station (being delivered by the Combined Authority)

- Outline Business Case approval: 29 March 2019.
- Change Request approval – Increase in indicative budget for the railway station part of the Project to £20,560,000: 22 October 2021.
- Planning determination for the railway station: 28 February 2023.
- Change request approval – Increase in development funding allocation and extension of completion date to September 2026: 27 November 2023.
- Detailed design start for the railway station: 15 July 2024.
- Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed for the railway station: 18 July 2024.
- Change Request: Update on Envisaged Scheme Costs (£34,500,000) and Approval of Additional Development Funding of £460,000. Approved 19 March 2025

### Elland Access Package Improvements (being delivered by the Council)

- Outline Business Case approval: 29 March 2019.
- Strategic Outline Case approval: 4 September 2020.
- Change request approval - £596,000 additional development funding approved 8 February 2022
- Transforming Cities Fund Inflation Review – Reduction of Transforming Cities Fund indicative allocation to £8,037,414: 8 December 2022.
- Change Request approval – additional development funding of £759,554 and extension of completion date to September 2026: 27 November 2023.
- Planning determination for the access package: 7 November 2024.
- Detailed Design Start for the Access Package: 20 January 2025
- Change Request: Update on Envisaged Scheme Costs (£13,377,039) and Approval of Additional Development Funding of £530,000. Approved 19 March 2025

In January 2025, both projects submitted a further Change Request to request the drawdown of additional development funding to complete the final designs and compilation of the project's joint Full Business Case. As part of this request the joint project was required to provide an update on both key programme milestones to delivery and overall Envisaged Scheme Costs. It is now forecast the final FBC will be submitted in September 2025 and the current total cost estimates for both projects respectively are:

- £34,500,000 for the Rail Station; and
- £13,377,039 for the Access Package.

The next stages in the Project are expected to be:

- Determination of the Elland Access Package Improvements CPO by the Secretary of State following a public inquiry expected to take place in June 2025.
- Submission of a joint Full Business Case (FBC) for the Railway Station and Elland Access Package Improvements, expected on 1 September 2025, for formal appraisal under the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework, upon which no final decision has yet been made.
- Approval of joint FBC expected in November/December 2025 – please note that such approval may contain conditions that will need to be met before any future funding can be approved/released.

### Funding Confidence

The Council have been advised by their legal representatives, with a view to the upcoming public inquiry for the Elland Access Package Improvements CPO, that written confirmation of the Combined Authority's intentions (subject to approval of the FBC and the terms and conditions contained in the Indemnity and Grant Funding Agreements) as to the funding of the Project would be helpful for the purposes of evidence submitted in support of the Project.



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West Yorkshire

Final funding approval – specifically confirmation and release of agreed monies for the delivery of the Project – won't occur until approval of the Project's Full Business Case (in line with the Constitution of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Assurance Framework). However, appreciating the Public Inquiry is scheduled to take place prior to this, previous funding provided for the Project (as detailed above) shows the parties intention to complete the Project.

The Project is funded from both Transforming Cities Fund and West Yorkshire Transport Fund programmes, which have total programme funding of £457 million and £1 billion respectively.

To ensure availability of necessary funding, all projects within these programmes are monitored closely and assessed on deliverability and affordability within the programme funding requirements. It should be noted that any funding to be paid by the Combined Authority to the Council in relation to the Project remains subject to the approval of the FBC, upon which the Combined Authority have yet to make any final decision, and the terms and conditions of the Indemnity and Grant Funding Agreements entered into by the parties.

We hope this letter is sufficient to confirm that, subject to approval of the Full Business Case, funding availability, and subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Indemnity and Grant Funding Agreements the Combined Authority is committed to supporting the Project with funding from the West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund (WY+TF) and the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF).

Yours sincerely

*S D Pope*

Simon Pope - WYCA (May 28, 2025,  
4:02pm)

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