

The Key To Growth

The case for the
Toton/HS2 link



The key to growth

How a £60m+ investment could spread HS2's benefits across the country

HS2 will cost £50 billion to build and is predicted to bring economic benefits of £60 billion per year. But it's missing a trick to link up with Leicester and Leicestershire, a vibrant part of the Midlands Engine and a rail gateway to other key economies.

There is a simple solution. For the sake of a short, £60m-95m north-facing, classic compatible link at Toton's East Midlands hub station, HS2 can be connected to the Midland Main Line, Leicestershire and other locations off the route. Combined with other improvements in the pipeline, this could unlock more than £1.9 billion per year of economic benefits and link up the Midlands Engine, the Northern Powerhouse and the Thames Valley corridor. There would be faster access to a range of destinations in the North, Midlands, Thames Valley and South West, adding significant value to HS2.

This document highlights the overwhelming case for making this investment now and unlocking major benefits for the whole country.

**It's time
to turn
the key.**

Powering the Midlands Engine

The Toton link would support the ambitions of the Midlands Engine area, to create 300,000 jobs and boost the national economy by £34 billion. There is lots of potential in Leicester and Leicestershire's economy. It has an estimated gross value of £19.4 billion per year and supports 33,000 businesses, which provide 435,000 jobs. It includes the largest distribution park in Europe, the UK's second largest freight airport and a growing manufacturing sector, plus three excellent universities. Its central location is a major asset and it is targeting significant economic and housing growth.

Over the next four years, the Leicester and Leicestershire strategic economic plan predicts a further 45,000 jobs and £2.5 billion of private investment, with gross value added rising from £19 billion to £23 billion.

But the plan identifies a range of risks to the local economy, including inadequate transport infrastructure, causing congestion and increasing business costs. The Toton link could reduce these risks to growth.

“ I'm a businessman, with a firm eye on economic returns. For me, the case to invest in the Toton link is a no brainer. ”

Nick Rushton
*Leader of Leicestershire
County Council*



“ Our area has massive potential for further growth, particularly through our Enterprise Zones. The proposed link at Toton is vital to enable that growth. ”

Nick Pulley
*Chair, Leicester and Leicestershire
Enterprise Partnership*

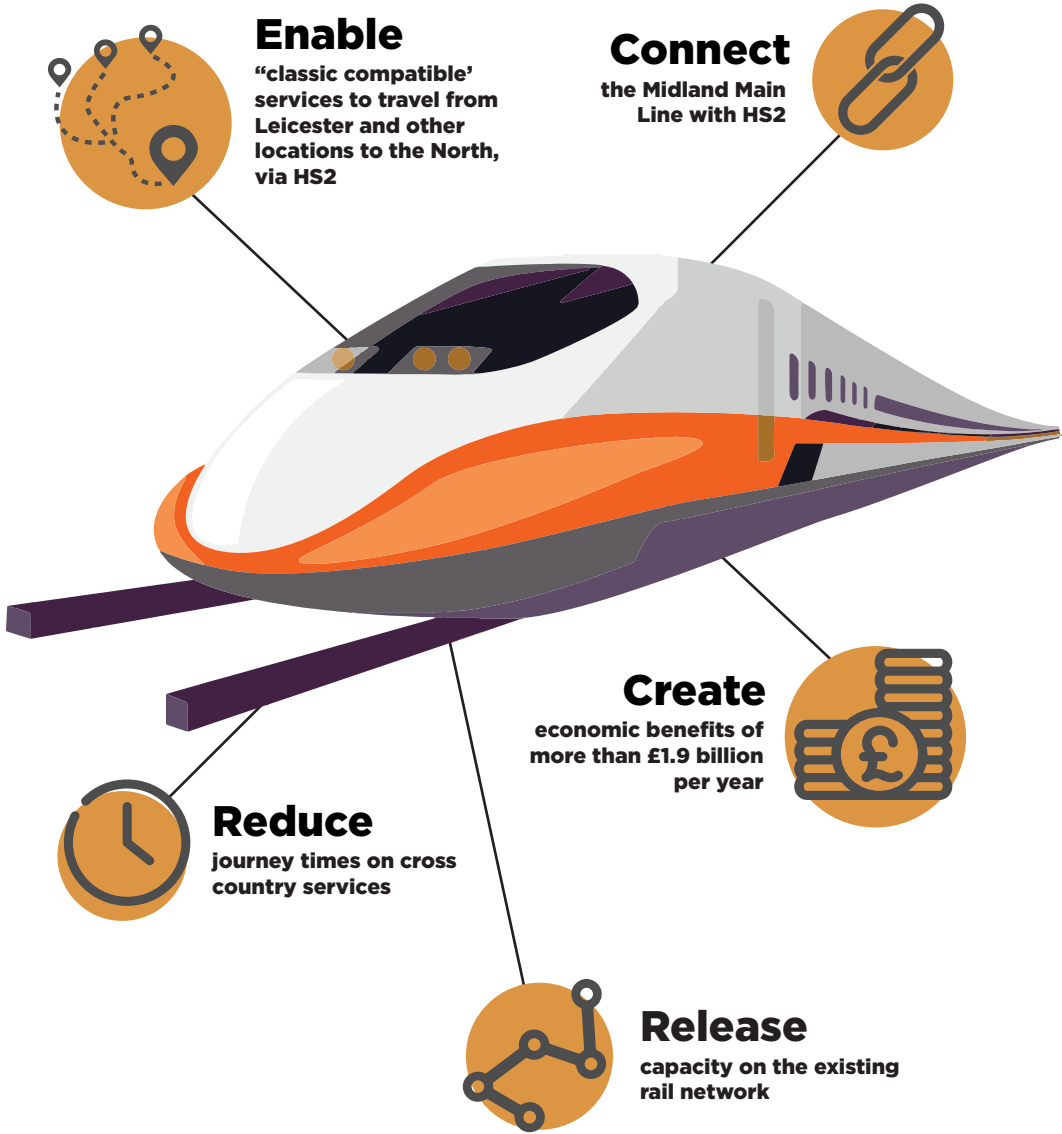


“ Leicester's rail connectivity to the south is already brilliant. We need an HS2 station at Toton to make the city's links to the north just as good. ”

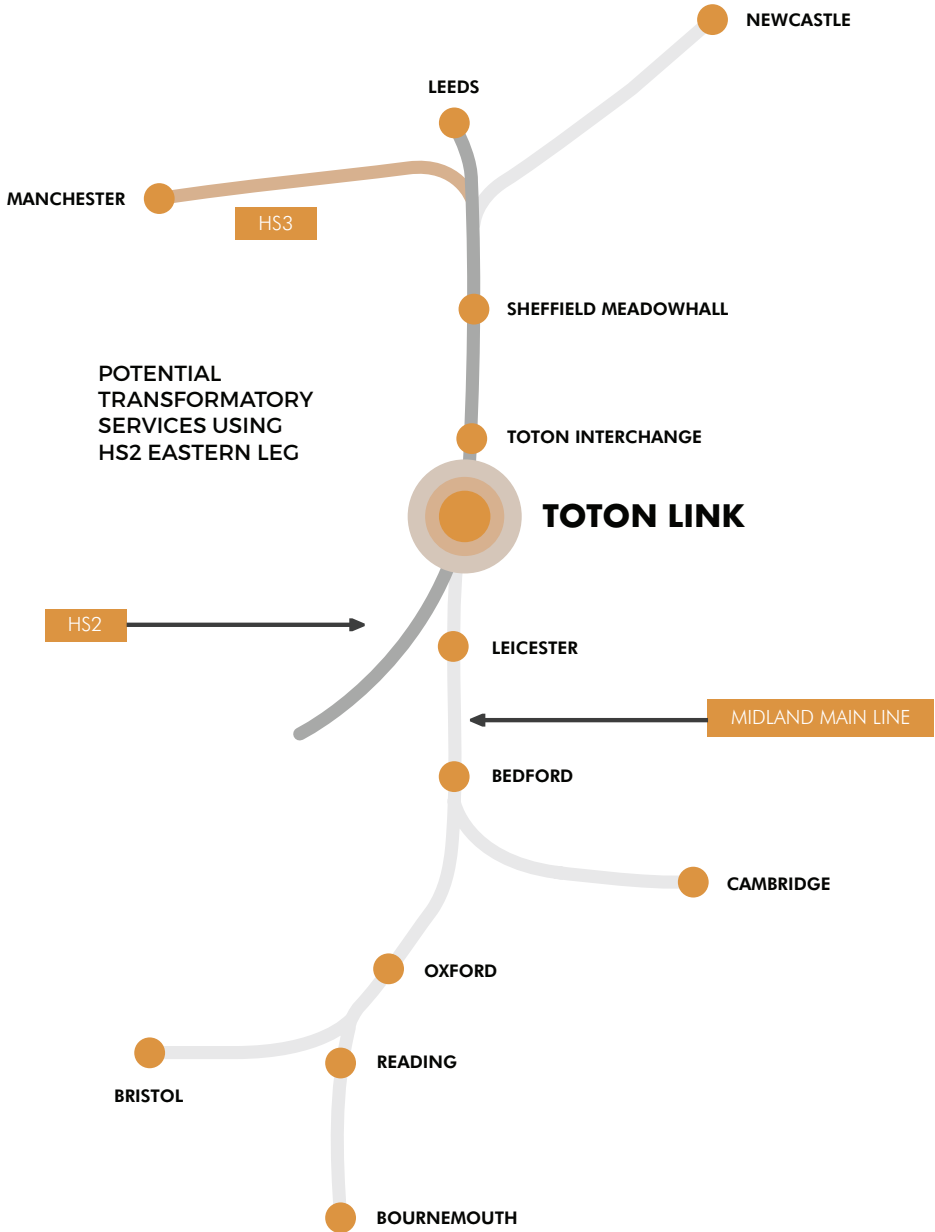
Sir Peter Soulsby,
Leicester's City Mayor



What the link would do



The Link



Benefits of the Toton Link

- 1** It spreads the benefits of HS2 to other areas, through improved inner city services
- 2** It boosts gross added value by more than £1.9 billion per year
- 3** It makes the most of capacity on the classic and HS2 networks
- 4** It future-proofs HS2 – it could be included as part of HS2's construction

Economic benefits

The Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy, prepared by SLC Rail for Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership predicts that a Toton link from the Erewash Valley line could enable the launch of direct services from Leicestershire to 10 potential destinations:

Hourly St Pancras-Manchester service,

via Midland Main Line, HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail/HS3 - £1 billion per year (within 60 years)

Annual GDP uplift for key locations:

Leicester-Manchester: £8.59 million

Leicester-Leeds: £8.48 million

Loughborough-Manchester: £2.98 million

Kettering-Leeds: £1.48 million

Hourly Reading-Leeds service,

via East West Rail, Midland Main Line and HS2 - £900 million per year (within 60 years)

Annual GDP uplift for key locations:

Milton Keynes- Leeds: £2.23 million

Oxford-Leeds: £1.99 million

Reading-Sheffield: £0.83 million

Bletchley-Leeds: £0.73 million

Benefits to devolution

The Toton link would support the Government's devolution agenda, by connecting key economic growth areas

- + The Northern Powerhouse
- + The Midlands Engine
- + The Thames Valley corridor
- + Cambridge and Cambridgeshire

Journey time benefits

Journey	Rail now	Car now (AA)	HS2
LEICESTER TO LEEDS	2H 04	1H 52	1H 06
LEICESTER TO NEWCASTLE	3H 27	3H 22	2H 20
SOUTHAMPTON TO LEEDS	4H 47	4H 22	3H 52
KETTERING TO NEWCASTLE	4H 02	3H 52	2H 45
OXFORD TO YORK	3H 26	3H 34	2H 32
CAMBRIDGE TO SHEFFIELD	2H 55	2H 42	1H 50

The risks of not proceeding with the Toton link

1. The Midland Main Line will run out of capacity
2. The economy of Leicester, Leicestershire and other Midland Main Line locations will increasingly be affected by congested rail services
3. Development, including housing development, may be affected
4. The benefits of HS2 will be restricted to those areas with stations on the route

Capacity problems on the Midland Main Line

1. Passenger numbers on the MML are predicted to rise 43 per cent by 2023
2. Growth to 2043 is predicted at 108 per cent
3. Leicester-London passenger numbers are predicted to rise to 20,000 by 2033 and 25,000 by 2043, without a HS2 link

Key Asks

Here are the key “asks” that will enable these benefits to be realised

- 1** Support for the Toton link – for £60-95m, major economic and travel benefits will be unlocked
- 2** Investment in classic compatible trains, able to travel on the Midland Main Line and HS2 – with the right rolling stock, services can run at high speed on HS2, making the most of the route’s capacity
- 3** Assurances that the current frequency of Midland Main Line trains from Leicester to London will continue, after HS2 opens
- 4** Support for other key links in the pipeline for the next decade, eg Nuckle 3.1 (Coventry), Hope Valley (Manchester services), East West project (Thames Valley), north of Sheffield (links to Leeds)

Our Partners



Next Steps

Our team is ready to meet you to discuss the benefits of the Toton link, to Leicester and Leicestershire and to the wider country.

Please contact us on **0116 305 7184** or email **LandLRailStrategy@leics.gov.uk**, if you would like us to arrange a briefing.

The Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy is available at:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/railstrategy

