Restoring Your Railway update

Today (20 June 2022), I am pleased to announce further development funding for 9 rail schemes under the Restoring Your Railway Fund. This brings communities in Yorkshire, Staffordshire, County Durham and beyond one step closer to being reconnected to the rail network, with the transformational levelling-up opportunities for jobs, homes and education that public transport provides.

The Restoring Your Railway Fund is making substantial progress to restore previously closed rail lines: the £500 million commitment is supporting the development or delivery of over 45 schemes across England and Wales, and we have already reintroduced services to the Dartmoor Line between Okehampton and Exeter.

I am today announcing further funding for schemes that entered Restoring Your Railway as early-stage ideas, which have already been supported through the fund to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case and will now be progressing further. I am also announcing funding for proposals at more advanced stages.

The 9 schemes receiving further funding with the potential to level up and reconnect communities are: the Barrow Hill line between Sheffield and Chesterfield; the Ivanhoe Line between Leicester and Burton on Trent; new stations at Meir in Staffordshire, Haxby in Yorkshire, Devizes in Wiltshire, Ferryhill in County Durham; Aldridge station and line upgrade in Walsall; reinstating the Fleetwood line; and the Mid Cornwall Metro scheme for services between Newquay and Falmouth.

More than 50 years since the railways were radically reshaped during the infamous Beeching cuts of the 1960s when thousands of miles of both track and stations were closed, the Restoring Your Railway Fund is now focused on developing and delivering the benefits of the schemes within its portfolio.

If delivered, these lines and stations will make a real contribution to levelling up the country, reinvigorating high streets and breathing new life into previously cut-off areas.

Alongside this announcement, we are publishing a <u>Restoring Your Railway fund</u> <u>update</u>, which sets out progress on all schemes that have received funding, and will be placed in the libraries of both Houses, as well as being publicly accessible online through the GOV.UK website.