

**COUNCIL  
20 JULY 2022**

**Skelmersdale Railway Motion – From Cllr Dowling on Behalf of the Labour Group**

**Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Westley**

This council notes the recent decision by the Department for Transport to reject the latest bid for infrastructure funding for Skelmersdale railway station.

This council further notes the long-term cross-party support for this project alongside Lancashire County Council and the West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper.

This council **is naturally disappointed with the Government's decision to reject the business case** for a new rail link for Skelmersdale, linking with both Liverpool and Manchester, **that** would have **opened** up a world of opportunities for Skelmersdale residents to access wider education, training, employment and social opportunities **as well as attracting** inward investment to the town.

**However, despite this decision the LCC Cabinet member for highways and transport has promised that work will continue to bring other transport improvements to the town. The Government's full feedback and guidance has yet to be published but when received it will be closely considered along with other possible plans for public transport improvements for Skelmersdale.**

**The business case was for a new rail infrastructure and a new station in the heart of the town, connected to the existing Kirkby-Wigan line. In their feedback to the submission, the Government suggested other options focussing on the existing Kirkby–Wigan rail line could improve connections to the town. These options would require less infrastructure work at a lower cost. The Department of Transport has announced that it will now engage with Lancashire County Council and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to look into these options in more detail.**

This Council resolves for the Chief Operating Officer on behalf of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Prime Minister **to (a) convey the Council's disappointment at the rejection of the business case for a Skelmersdale Railway Station (b) request a copy of the full feedback and guidance and (c) confirm this Council's willingness to engage with partners to explore the other options for the provision of a rail link for Skelmersdale**

**This Council resolves to instruct Cabinet and Officers to work closely with Lancashire County Council in partnership with organisations including Merseytravel and Network Rail to consider the full guidance when it is published by the Government and to explore the possible options for delivering a new rail link for Skelmersdale.**