

Cllr Ian Hudspeth  
Leader  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND

Via email

**Councillor Emily Smith**  
Leader of the Council

[Emily.Smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01235 422644  
135 Eastern Avenue  
Milton Park  
Oxon  
OX14 4SB

27 July 2020

Dear Ian,

## **Grove Railway Station**

I was pleased to see the recent announcement by the Department for Transport (DfT) that they have included the potential Grove Railway Station for consideration in the Restoring Your Railways 'Ideas Fund'. I understand from my officers that it is anticipated that the DfT will be seeking further detail as part of the autumn funding round which should tie with the wider Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study that is due to be reported to the Growth Board in November.

In the meantime, the Vale of White Horse District Council would welcome the opportunity to work with Oxfordshire County Council to develop the proposal further. In particular, how it could support the wider planning agenda, be more central to strategic transport provision in this area, and fit with wider rail aspirations, especially in terms of securing a viable train service. This project is important in the context of the council's work on addressing sustainable travel as part of its work on addressing climate change. This project also has strong opportunities in relation to the emerging Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan work.

I would be grateful to be kept informed of developments with this project and have asked officers to work closely with your officers to discuss the wider planning aspirations and the role that this infrastructure could play for the Vale and Oxfordshire. If there is anything I can do to add weight to the Restoring Your Railways bid please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Emily Smith  
Leader of the Council

CC:

Mark Stone - Chief Executive of Vale of White Horse District Council  
Layla Moran – MP for Oxford West and Abingdon  
David Johnston – MP for Wantage