

The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps M.P.
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

Emily.Smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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

20 August 2021

Dear Mr Shapps,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to the reopening of Grove Station.

As a result of the recent housing developments and increased employment opportunities in the Grove/Wantage area, the need for the reopening of the railway station has never been greater – a fact that the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study conclusively demonstrated. We would, therefore, contend that it is incumbent upon HM Government to ensure that this necessary transport infrastructure is prioritised as a matter of course.

The reopening of Grove Station has widespread, long-standing support across not just the Vale but the wider region. It will help to improve transport connectivity, reduce car usage, and assist with the UK's ambitions to reach net-zero. Furthermore, a recent assessment using your own Department's Value for Money Assessment showed that it would provide "high value for money".

We are, therefore, asking for your commitment to reopening Grove Station as soon as possible and to affirm this by providing the necessary funding as part of the Department for Transport's latest round of grants to help deliver proposals for new stations.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

Vale of White Horse District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
OX14 4SB www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk