

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

City Valley Rail Link and Lancashire Local Transport Plan (2026–2030)

Council notes:

- The Lancashire Combined County Authority’s (LCCA) draft *Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2026–2030* and accompanying *Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)*, and welcomes their ambition—particularly the focus on rail, public transport, active travel and reducing transport-related social exclusion.
- That Rossendale Borough Council has developed the **City Valley Rail Link (CVRL)**—a proposal to restore passenger rail services between Rawtenstall and Manchester Victoria via Ramsbottom, Bury and Heywood—using the existing East Lancashire Railway infrastructure.
- The scheme progressed to a Strategic Outline Business Case in 2022, supported by Department for Transport funding and Lancashire County Council, with:
 - 86% public support,
 - Indicative capital cost of around £80 million,
 - Journey times of 56 minutes (Phase 1) and 44 minutes (Phase 2).
- That Rossendale remains the only borough in Lancashire without a passenger rail station, and is identified within the ISA as a priority area for transport-related social exclusion, including Bacup as a key intervention cluster.
- That the ISA highlights “Restoring Your Railways schemes” as among the strongest contributors to delivering transport, economic and environmental outcomes, but does not make clear whether CVRL is included within this category.
- That the LCCA’s scheme register shows many included schemes are at earlier stages or without funding, whereas CVRL has a co-funded business case and is more advanced than several schemes currently listed.
- The significantly improved strategic context since 2022, including:
 - The Greater Manchester Bee Network integration (from December 2026),
 - The LCCA’s £640 million transport settlement and new powers,
 - Opportunities for cross-boundary working with Greater Manchester,
 - The need to address Rossendale’s lack of rail connectivity ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.

Council believes:

- The City Valley Rail Link represents a transformational opportunity to tackle transport inequality, improve access to jobs and services, support economic growth, and reduce carbon emissions.
- That failure to explicitly include or address CVRL within the Implementation Plan risks undermining both the credibility of the Plan and its stated objectives on social inclusion and connectivity.
- That, at minimum, transparency is required regarding whether CVRL is included within the “Restoring Your Railways schemes” referenced in the ISA.

Council resolves to:

1. **Formally support** the inclusion of the City Valley Rail Link within the Lancashire Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2026–2030.
2. **Call on the LCCA to clarify and confirm:**
 - Whether CVRL is included in the Implementation Plan and within the ISA’s “Restoring Your Railways schemes”;
 - And, if not, to provide the basis for that decision, including the relevant assessment.
3. **Request that the LCCA:**
 - Includes Phase 1 (Rawtenstall – Bury) as a named scheme with funded development activity within the 2026–2030 period;
 - Includes Phase 2 (Bury – Manchester Victoria via Heywood) as a medium-term feasibility priority within the “Connecting Lancashire” workstream, with joint working with Greater Manchester partners;
 - Names the scheme as a priority within the forthcoming Rail Strategy;
 - Recognises CVRL as a key intervention to address transport-related social exclusion in Rossendale.
4. **Authorise the Leader and Chief Executive** to continue engagement with the LCCA, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and Government partners to progress the City Valley Rail Link.

Date of Council Meeting:-	8 th July 2026
Notice submitted from	
Councillor Alyson Barnes	Date: 25 th June 2026
Councillor Andrew Walmsley	Date: 25 th June 2026
Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Kimberly Haworth	
Comments: No finance implications.	Date: 30 th June 2026
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle	
Comments: No legal implications	Date: 30 th June 2026
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 30 th June 2026