

**Mr Mark Winnington**  
**Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

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Mr Peter Frost  
Director  
Kilbride Group  
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7/10 Chandos Street  
London  
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Ref: MW-180/CM

Your ref:

Date: 20 July 2016

Dear Peter

### **Proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at Four Ashes, Consultation**

I have been receiving regular briefings from officers representing the authority in this matter, and taken a number of soundings within the community, in particular, from Councillor Mark Sutton as the County Council Division Member for Brewood, South Staffordshire.

Having taken an overview of the wide range of environmental, transport and sustainable resource management (minerals) issues that will need further consideration so that the community can properly assess and shape this proposal, in particular, I will be seeking to better understand:

- the sub-national and local transport impacts, and how these can be mitigated to the satisfaction of our communities;
- the exceptional circumstances that will justify the release of greenbelt for development in this area, through site assessment and strategic fit within a national network of such facilities, (for example, the existing and potential future role of the Telford (Donnington) freight terminal);



- how you are articulating a compelling proposition in that the rail based component of the scheme is an integral part of the proposals;
- the case for incorporating any advanced manufacturing and engineering elements into the proposals, that demonstrate the reliance on rail freight with clear alignment to the economic strategy for Staffordshire and sub-regional travel to work area; and
- how the Bericote Four Ashes strategic employment site (brownfield land, formerly occupied by a chemical works operation; currently allocated in the adopted Local Plan and benefits from an outline planning permission) will operate in-conjunction with the proposals, in particular within the context of the current planning application for the Bericote Four Ashes site (16/00498/FUL).

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge that the Mission Statement for the development is noted and the commitment to community interests and environmental considerations is both welcomed and reassuring.

I trust that you will be able to respond positively to the points raised in due course.

Yours sincerely



**Mark Winnington**  
**Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

cc Clerk to the Parish Councils, c/o Cllr Mark Sutton, Staffordshire CC  
Cllr Bob McCardle, Cabinet Member, South Staffordshire Council  
David Frost CBE, Chair of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP  
Gavin Williamson MP for South Staffordshire Constituency  
Jeremy Lefroy MP for the Stafford Constituency

