

*Councillor Simon Tagg, Leader*

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 9 May 2025

David Williams MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA



Castle House  
Barracks Road  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 1BL

By [e-mail: david.williams.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.williams.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear David,

**RE: Kidsgrove Town Deal – Kidsgrove Train Station/Network Rail**

Further to my letter to you dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 regarding the Kidsgrove Train Station project and the ongoing funding issues, copy attached. I am concerned I have yet to receive a reply.

The Chair of the Board has shared the points you raised with him and actions you agreed to undertake via your email to him on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 where you agreed to write to the DfT and Network Rail to seek to clarify the position on the availability and extent of possible funding for remediation works in the event that GI work takes place and to attempt to clarify the position on the potential virement of funds between projects. To date no response has been received.

These issues, as you are aware, are now urgent as in the intervening period the project has suffered further difficulties in that the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board have been informed by MHCLG that if the underground survey works do not result in a remediation plan within the funding available for the station project, the project cannot proceed and all monies are therefore at risk of being 'clawed back' by UK Government. This is a major blow as, without the survey works, it cannot be determined what the extent of the works is and the Kidsgrove Town Deal Board had been advised previously that the potential funding would be made available to cover the funding required to undertake the remediation works.

You will recall from my previous letter to you in November that our previous MP had held discussions with such people as the chair of National Rail, Lord Hendy, and the then Secretary of State for Transport (who visited Kidsgrove), which translated into dedicated support from senior DfT officers leading to Kidsgrove being specifically named in paragraph 62 of the Network North announcement as a station enhancement that could be funded £284.9m of additional LTF funding over seven years from 2025-2032 to be spent on its local transport priorities, as the result of the cancellation of the Birmingham to Crewe section of the HS2 project.

These uncertainties, or perhaps changes of government policy/direction, have put the whole station project at a major risk as Kidsgrove Town Deal Board cannot sanction works which are at risk of funding being 'clawed back' by government, but at the same time without this work the project cannot proceed due to Network Rail refusing access to the station area without a remediation plan which is fully costed and funds guaranteed.

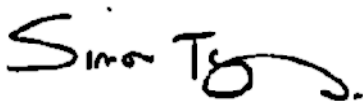
I requested again that you speak with Network Rail, Department for Transport and MHCLG officials to secure these vital funds, and you confirmed to the Chair of the Board you would do so. I would therefore ask for an urgent update on these discussions and the progress made.

I note with disappointment your recent comments in Parliament criticising the Council's role in the multi-partner Kidsgrove Town Deal Board. I would like to remind you of the success in Kidsgrove to date using Town Deal money such as the contribution to the refurbishment and reopening of Kidsgrove Sports Centre, the creation of the Pump Track in Newchapel and the new 3g pitches at the Kings School, in addition to the works completed at Chatterley Valley employment site and the ongoing works to maximise access to the canals through the Canal and River Trust.

Your recent comments belittle the contribution of partners and the community in Kidsgrove that have made those projects a great success.

I await your response to this letter and my previous correspondence at your earliest convenience. As ever, I am willing to meet to discuss this further as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Tagg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Simon Tagg  
Leader

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**Contacting the Council:**

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