

# **WRITTEN EVIDENCE TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES' ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE SCRUTINY SESSION ON MARK BARRY'S METRO REPORT**

## **Introduction**

1. In May 2013 I commissioned Mark Barry to provide recommendations and proposals for developing a Metro for South East Wales focused on maximising the benefits from Valley Lines Electrification.
2. Mark submitted his report to me this autumn. The executive summary has been published on the Welsh Government website and I have provided a copy of the full report to all Assembly Members.

## **Mark Barry's Metro Report**

3. Mark's report was developed with the twin goals of enabling economic development and effective and efficient transport in South East Wales. The report identifies strategic interventions to improve the provision of integrated transport in South East Wales, linking key development and employment sites enabling improved access for journeys to and from work.
4. On 8 October the Finance Minister announced a £62m capital allocation in the budget for phase one of the Metro. The money will be used for rail infrastructure improvements; station upgrades; park and ride schemes; bus corridor and walking and cycling schemes and the further development of the recommendations detailed in Mark's Metro report.
5. In addition to supporting the Metro phase one interventions Mark's report provides recommendations for improving integrated transport provision on several main corridors. The report also details improvements that could be made on the existing rail and bus networks to improve access to and from key economic sites.

## **Plenary Oral Statement**

6. On 22 October I made an Oral Statement to Plenary which detailed the next steps I am taking following the receipt of Mark's report.
7. My statement announced that I am establishing a Metro Implementation Group within the Welsh Government to consider in detail the findings and recommendations in Mark's report. The report sets out the big picture and future direction, the new group will help to move us quickly to the planning and delivery stage. I hope to be able to provide more information about the Metro Implementation Group at the scrutiny session on 5 December.
8. The Metro is far more than just a transport project. It is important to align Metro priorities and investments as part of a co-ordinated city region approach. I am clear that the Metro will be the catalyst for transforming the economic prospects of the region and Wales

**Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM**  
**Minister for Economy, Science and Transport**