

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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***TramForward* welcomes investment boost in Chancellor's Autumn Statement**

TramForward welcomes the commitments to infrastructure investment announced by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement.

The importance of local transport investment in driving up the productivity of provincial cities has been recognised and the promise of, among other commitments, of £1.1bn towards local transport investment in England is welcome; as are the expansion of the City Deal programme and the promise of new borrowing powers for city region mayors.

The Government has been promoting improved connectivity between cities through schemes such as HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and East-West rail between Cambridge and Oxford. *TramForward* emphasises the importance of improving transport within cities through integrated networks of which tramways should be a major component.

The Chancellor's promise of £2.3bn support for infrastructure investment to support housing development is also welcome. It is to be hoped that this will include public transport infrastructure. For too long in this country, town planning and transport planning have been pursued separately. Planning of housing, as well as other developments such as hospitals and universities, must be done in coordination with development of adequate public transport systems to avoid further increases in private car traffic, congestion and pollution.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. **TramForward** is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA).
2. The LRTA is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport in urban areas through light rail, tramway and metro systems and has been in existence for more than 75 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail and TramTrain technology.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their areas.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs less than 14p a day. To join, visit www.lрта.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolsley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport museums.
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