

Somerset West and Taunton

Jonathan Jones-Pratt (Chair)
West Somerset Railway
The Railway Station
Minehead
Somerset
TA24 5BG

18 August 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

West Somerset Railway

I am writing in support of the application that the West Somerset Railway is making to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for support from the assistance package for the heritage sector.

The railway is widely renowned as the longest steam railway in the country and so attracts a wide range of visitors from elsewhere in the UK as well as from overseas. Without it, the area of West Somerset would be impacted economically and culturally.

The West Somerset Railway is an important asset of the tourism and hospitality sectors in our region. The attraction brings visitors to us who are likely to also visit other attractions and local businesses while they are here, bringing a wider benefit to our economy than the Railway attraction alone.

As well as being a significant local employer, WSR also provides worthwhile and useful opportunities for volunteering in an area with a large elderly population for whom time spent on the railway enriches their lives and encourages social contact and regular exercise.

The railway is also important to the local economy through its purchase of supplies and in providing opportunities for skills training and apprenticeships, particularly for engineering in an area where such opportunities are few and far between.

We are very happy to support and endorse the application made by WSR and hope that it will be successful.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Cllr M Kravis
Portfolio holder for Economic Development
Somerset West and Taunton Council