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Government's vow to level up regions 'will take long time'

The government will struggle to meet its objective of 'levelling up' the UK regions with London despite promising to spend more on transport infrastructure.

Both the prime minister and chancellor signalled last week that the government intends to give a green light to the HS2 high-speed rail project, although a formal go-ahead has not yet been given.

However, Business Travel Association (BTA) public affairs advisor Gareth Morgan suggested the time big infrastructure projects take would not help the government.

He told corporate travel leaders: "It will be a long time before we see spades in the ground."

Ben Kentish, political correspondent of The Independent, agreed, telling the BTA:

"Infrastructure is crucial, but it will not transform people's lives."

Daily Mirror political correspondent Nicola Bartlett noted: "Transport is much more on the agenda than in previous years."

She said: "Johnson has already



made decisions that go against his party ideologically. Theresa May would not have made the decision [to rescue] Flybe." The government agreed in January to keep Flybe operating, although details remain under wraps.