

Mr M O'Dowd Jones
Somerset County Council
County Hall
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 4DY

27 June 2017

Dear Mike

Re: National Productivity Investment Fund - M5 Junction 25 Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

I write concerning endorsement by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership of Somerset County Council's Bid to the National Productivity Investment Fund for the M5 Junction 25 Pedestrian and Cycle bridge proposals.

It was helpful to see the presentation on the scheme at the recent meeting of the Local Transport Board. As was noted at the LEP's Strategic Investment Panel a key element of the LEP's Strategic Economic Vision (to increase Productivity and Prosperity) is the enhancement of connectivity and this programme provides just that opportunity. Therefore this project is viewed by the LEP as a priority; it is aligned with the objectives within our Strategic Economic Plan, which emphasises the fundamental role of transport infrastructure in underpinning economic growth.

The M5 Junction 25 Pedestrian and Cycle bridge scheme is complementary to the major scheme for increasing the highway capacity at Junction 25 which is already being delivered through the Growth Deal. That scheme, which has also achieved support from Highways England, will provide direct vehicular access to the Nexus 25 Strategic Employment Site. The Pedestrian and Cycle bridge will provide a sustainable transport access directly into the Nexus 25 development and also more broadly remove the barrier to walking and cycling which is imposed by the M5 motorway.

I can therefore confirm the support of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership for this bid by Somerset County Council.

We very much hope that your proposal is successful. As one of the terms of our endorsement, we require applicants to inform us of the progress of their proposals so that we can monitor the picture across the whole LEP footprint. In addition, we also request that applicants ensure that the Partnership's endorsement is cited in all appropriate publicity. Should you require any assistance in this regard, or in any further activity relating to your bid, please do not hesitate to ask.



We look forward to hearing about the progress of your project and to a successful outcome.

Yours sincerely



Chris Garcia
Chief Executive

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

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