



Taunton Deane Borough Council
The Deane House, Belvedere Road,
Taunton, Somerset TA1 1HE

West Somerset Council
West Somerset House, Killick Way,
Williton, Somerset TA4 4QA

Sunita Mills - Service Commissioning Manager:
Transport Policy

Our Ref: BC/SM
Date: 26th June 2017

By Email

Dear Sunita,

**National Productivity Investment Fund – M5 Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge,
Taunton.**

I write to express Taunton Deane Borough Council's (TDBC) full support for the bid that SCC is making to the above fund.

The bridge will be an important enabler of economic growth in Somerset and the wider region, and will facilitate increased levels of walking and cycling between the main residential areas of Taunton and the new 'Nexus 25' strategic employment site. This site will create high quality space for approximately 3,000 jobs and the bridge in turn will be an important catalyst, raising the profile, attracting investment and accelerating delivery of the site. It will also help to reduce congestion, promote healthy living and contribute to better environmental conditions. In all of these respects, the project fits very well with Taunton's status as the South West's first Garden Town.

Early feasibility work has already been undertaken and this has established that a pedestrian and cycle bridge can be constructed at the preferred location. As an expression of commitment to take the project forward, the Council and partners are jointly commissioning an international design competition, scheduled to get under way this Autumn.

I am pleased to confirm that TDBC would be willing in principle to contribute up to £375k towards the capital cost of the project, as part of an overall package including contributions from other delivery partners. In addition, the Council is willing in principle to contribute land in its ownership on the Blackbrook Business Park, as a suitable 'landing area' for the proposed bridge

I trust this letter conveys the importance attached by the Council to this project, and I therefore reiterate our full support for this bid.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Cleere

Brendan Cleere

Brendan Cleere
Director Growth & Development
Tel: 01823 356350
Email: b.cleere@tauntondeane.gov.uk
www.tauntondeane.gov.uk
www.westsomerset.gov.uk