

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

27 June 2017

Dear Mike

Re: National Productivity Investment Fund - Urban Traffic Control Modernisation

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 Urban Traffic Control Modernisation 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 Urban Traffic Control Modernisation scheme is complementary to the transport improvements in Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater which are already being delivered through the Growth Deal. While those schemes increase junction capacity at specific locations to facilitate growth in jobs and housing this project will ensure that capacity across the network of these key settlements is being used with greatest efficiency, to minimise congestion and to reduce air pollution.

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

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