

Dear Sir

Worcester: Axis West-East - National Productivity Investment Fund Bid

I am pleased to enclose Worcestershire County Council's funding application for National Productivity Investment funding to support the delivery of the Worcester: Axis West-East Programme.

The priorities of Worcestershire County Council and its key stakeholders are set out in the authority's Corporate Plan, with supporting economic growth a key aim. Investment in transport infrastructure is a clear priority, providing businesses with improved access to markets and employees and encouraging economic growth in Worcestershire. The Axis West-East Programme in Worcester is recognised as an essential infrastructure scheme requiring focused investment to develop and enhance these conditions.

The City of Worcester is facing a period of significant development growth in coming years, as set out in the South Worcestershire Development Plan. Investment in Worcester's main west-east axis route will directly support economic growth whilst also accommodating planned development. The attached bid is compliant with Worcestershire's Local Transport Plan, which includes a comprehensive multimodal transport investment programme.

Our appraisal has shown that the Worcester Axis West-East scheme represents excellent value for money and will deliver real benefits to Worcester and Worcestershire's residents, visitors and businesses.

As part of the development of the Local Transport Plan, consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders, who all appreciate the importance of this bid to Worcester to enable the city to continue to prosper.

With this in mind I look forward to hearing the outcome of the bidding process and hope that the result is a favourable one for Worcester.

Yours faithfully



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Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure

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