



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

Mike Kirby
Director Corporate Commissioning
Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Preston
Lancashire
Pr1 8XJ

29th June 2017

Dear Mike

Subject: National Productivity Investment Fund – M55 St Annes Link Road and Preston City Centre Congestion Relief schemes

I am writing to express the support of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for Lancashire County Council's bids into Government's National Productivity Investment Fund.

The M55 St Annes Link Road project is a scheme within Lancashire's £320M Growth Deal programme and the Preston City Centre Congestion Relief scheme will support the delivery of the LEP's £434M Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

Yours sincerely

Edwin Booth
Chair, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership





Our Ref: SF/JC

Your Ref:

Please Ask For: Cllr Susan Fazackerley

Telephone: 01253 722463

Email: cllr.sfazackerley@fylde.gov.uk

Date: 29 June 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

National Productivity Investment Fund – M55 to St Annes Link Road

Fylde Borough Council would like to confirm support for Lancashire County Council's bid to the Department for Transport's National Productivity Investment Fund covering the financial years 2018/19 and 19/20 as there is sufficient evidence available to demonstrate that such a submission relating to the proposed M55 to St Annes Link Road will meet the three key aims of the Fund.

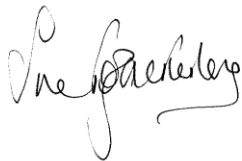
The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Strategic Economic Plan describes the strategic importance of this scheme to ensure that the local road network can support growth; it is also important to Blackpool and the broader Fylde Coast economy. The Lytham and St Annes strategic location for development could have a profound effect on the housing market in this important area, to the north of Lytham St Annes and south of Blackpool, as well as being directly adjacent to the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and the significant employment sites of Whitehills and Blackpool & Fylde Industrial Estate.

In excess of 1,600 homes are proposed in the strategic location and independent analysis of the employment sites forecasts a significant number of jobs (c2,000) being created across the two employment sites, the largest quantum of new jobs across the Fylde Coast. Currently Kensington Developments account for over one thousand new dwellings at the Queensway site. More recently other developers have been discussing further development in the wider area with the county council, that if progressed through the planning system to delivery will significantly exceed that originally anticipated for the area.

The existing highway network is unable to accommodate the likely traffic that this scale of development would generate. To directly support this growth (and potentially to exceed it), as well as underpin access to the resort towns, the link road will improve access from the M55 at Peel Hill (Junction 4) to St Annes.

I can confirm that Fylde Borough Council has approved a contribution of £1 million towards the scheme.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Fazackerley', with a stylized, flowing script.

Councillor Susan Fazackerley
Leader of the Council

MARK MENZIES MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mike Kirby
Director of Corporate Commissioning
Lancashire County Council
PO Box 78
County Hall
Fishergate
Preston

23 June 2017

Dear Mr Kirby,

I am writing in full support of the bid for £5 million from the National Productivity Investment Fund, in respect of the M55 to St Annes Link Road.

The link road is a sound investment for the fund; it will boost two enterprise zones, unlock further development on business parks, and enable further housebuilding in an area which currently cannot cope with the amount of traffic.

This road scheme is vital to ease congestion for residents at a time we have gridlocked alternative routes, and the prospect of a further 1,600 homes being built in the immediate area.

Since the loss of this M55 link route, residents, tourists and commuters have to endure lengthy delays between St Annes and Blackpool on Clifton Drive and Queensway, roads which simply cannot cope with the level of traffic currently on them. At present we have two two-lane roads linking these towns – Blackpool is one of the biggest tourist draws in the country, and St Annes is undergoing a tourism renaissance. The roads, at present, cannot cope with demand.

Given the number of permissions granted to developers in Fylde, including a 'new town' on the opposite side of the M55 link road roundabout, it is clear now that the road network we have will not be able to accommodate this increase in traffic – let alone future developments. There are currently more than 1,600 homes in development within a few hundred metres of the St Annes end of the link road.

Without this link road, the area simply will not be able to deliver the homes we need in the future, beyond the present Local Plan allocation.

The project will unlock the potential for thousands of jobs on the Fylde coast, providing much-needed improved links to two enterprise zones which so far are not fulfilling their potential.

The advanced engineering and manufacturing site at nearby Warton has huge potential and desperately needs better transport links to attract businesses to the site.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR FYLDE

Westminster: 020 7219 7073 Constituency: 01253 739848

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And the zone based at Blackpool Airport, centred on the energy industry, would also benefit from this link road, making the site more attractive to businesses. It would also help transport links for students who choose to attend the energy college already built on the site.

The link road would also provide much-needed improved access to the Whitehills business estate, and Blackpool and Fylde Industrial Estate. Without the M55 Link Road, I see stagnation on these sites before they reach capacity, purely on the limitations of the current road network. This road will bring growth.

St Annes and Lytham town centres would also receive a welcome boost by improved access, with present levels of traffic proving offputting to visitors.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Menzies MP



I write in connection with the above , following an email from Janet Wilson , LCC's Commissioning Manager , sent to me on June 20.

I am certainly happy to support strongly the bid for the above project from DfT , from funding to be allocated from the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF).

I have seen the email which my constituency neighbour Mark Menzies has also sent in support of this proposal. I entirely concur with the reasons that he has put forward for this project and indeed it is one that we have discussed together previously. Mr Menzies and I have a common view about the need urgently to improve transport solutions that will make connectivity between our two constituencies easier.

Specifically that will be of benefit not just to residents in South Shore in Blackpool South and for residents in the St Annes area of the Fylde constituency , but also benefit the local economy by encouraging more visitors to go back and forward taking short breaks and holidays to the benefit of rural and seaside tourism and visitor spend in both areas.

The need to act on this is urgent , as Mr Menzies has explained in his email - and I have had personal experience of the traffic logjams he describes on Clifton Drive and Queensway when visiting an elderly friend of mine at weekends in Lytham .

For these reasons therefore I strongly support the current funding proposal for the link road suggested.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Marsden

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BAE SYSTEMS

Date: 26th June 2017

Mr Mike Kirby
Director of Corporate Commissioning
Lancashire County Council
envcommissioningteam@lancashire.gov.uk

Ref: HQYG8S-VOVA-UEQ-Y7

Dear Mr Kirby,

National Productivity Investment Fund – M55 to St Annes Link Road

As a major employer in Lancashire BAE Systems' ability to attract and retain sufficient talented employees and have access to a capable local supply chain is linked to the availability of good quality local infrastructure and housing and the vibrancy of the local economy.

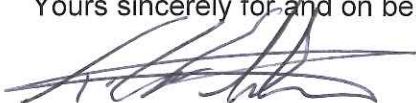
BAE Systems recognises the value that the proposed M55 to St. Annes link road can add to the local area in terms of supporting new housing development within the typical catchment area of its Lancashire sites. A significant proportion of our approximately 6000 employees based at our Warton site live on the Fylde coast. A good quality, affordable and nearby housing supply is particularly valuable in attracting the volume of new graduates to the area that the company requires. The quantity of housing proposed for the Lytham St. Annes strategic area would be of significant benefit to the company and its employees and the availability of an improved highway network to support the increased traffic that the development would generate appears to be essential to enable it.

The proposed link road would offer benefits to our employees in terms of improved access to work at our Warton site and also Samlesbury, to where a sizeable number of previously Warton based employees living on the Fylde Coast have relocated in recent years.

In addition to the direct benefits to the company and its employees the proposed link road would be beneficial to the wider local economy with indirect benefits in terms of supporting a more diverse set of potential supply chain businesses.

In addition to being directly supportive of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, the link road and the housing development it could support, would be of clear benefit to the Warton Aviation Enterprise Zone where the company are working with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to bring forward proposals to increase the attractiveness of the EZ to prospective tenants and maximise the employment opportunities that the site offers.

Yours sincerely for and on behalf of BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.



Tim Flesher
Enterprise Zone Programme Manager
Manufacturing Operations
BAE Systems – Military Air and Information

22 June 2017

Mr Mike Kirby
Director of Corporate Commissioning
Lancashire County Council
PO Box 100
County Hall
Preston
PR1 0LD

Dear Mr Kirby

Support for the M55 to St Annes Link Road

Blackpool and The Fylde College fully supports the proposed M55 to St Anne's Link Road. The College's most recent development, Lancashire Energy HQ, supported by the Lancashire LEP was one of the first occupants of Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone which would be served by the link road. Lancashire Energy HQ will open in September 2017 and as more businesses move into the Enterprise Zone the link road will be invaluable in easing local congestion, promoting inward investment and supporting job creation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything Blackpool and The Fylde College is able to do to help secure the M55 to St Anne's link road.

Yours sincerely



Bev Robinson OBE
Principal and Chief Executive

Date: 23 June 2017

Mike Kirby
Director of Corporate Commissioning
By email to:
envcommissioningteam@lancashire.gov.uk

Our Ref: CE/DLF
Your Ref:
Direct Line: 01253 477000
Email: chief.executive@blackpool.gov.uk

Dear Mike

National Productivity Investment Fund – M55 to St Anne's Link Road

Blackpool Council fully supports this scheme and Lancashire County Council's bid for necessary funds to complete the funding package for this vital link road. The proposed new road will reduce congestion on Queensway/Common Edge Road, a main route between Blackpool and St Anne's, at two key junctions in particular (School Road and Squires Gate Lane). This in turn will assist both councils in their ambitions for development and economic growth at the Blackpool Airport Economic Zone (EZ), opening up sites for economic and housing development, which will both create jobs.

I wish you every success with your bid, which complements our bid to make further repairs to Yeadon Way. Without this key resort access road, congestion would hold back economic growth on our boundary.

Yours sincerely



Neil Jack
Chief Executive



Chief Executive
Blackpool Council
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27th June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Lytham St Annes/M55 Link Road

I wish to strongly support the bid for £5 million from the National Productivity Investment Fund to enable the long awaited M55 to Lytham St Annes Link Road to be constructed. I write as the Lancashire County Councillor for Fylde West Division (the Division in which the road will be constructed) and also as a Fylde Borough Councillor for thirty nine years, nine of which I served as Leader. During my time as Leader of Borough Council, from 1994 to 2003, this road was top of the Borough's priority list and remains so today, twenty three years later.

The need for the road to support the economic viability of Lytham St Annes, the largest town in the Borough, was clearly evident in the 1990s but is even more so today with events which have occurred over the past few years. These include-:

- the closure of the premium bonds site in St Annes and the resulting loss of several hundred civil service jobs.
- similar large scale job losses at British Aerospace Warton and AXA Insurance in Lytham.
- the closure of Blackpool Airport in St Annes with further job losses.

The construction of the new road will reverse this decline and help to create employment at the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone and employment sites at Whitehills and the Blackpool and Fylde Industrial Estate.

The road is due to be partially funded by a contribution of £7 million from a proposed housing estate of 1150 houses at Queensway. This planning permission, which was won on appeal, is dependent on the construction of the road. Should this application be unsuccessful the Borough will not only lose the road but also 1150 houses. Other proposed developments which will be dependent on the road are 53 dwellings at Valentines Kennels at Wildings Lane and a further 550 houses on land adjacent to these kennels.

When the Secretary of State granted planning permission for the 1150 dwellings at Queensway it was on the basis that Heyhouses Lane/ Queensway was already severely congested and could take only a further 375 dwellings before the construction of the Link Road. Since then Fylde Borough Council has granted planning permission for 250 dwellings plus a further 85 dwellings for a retirement village on the old premium bond site in

Heyhouses Lane together with a pub and a 1860 m2 supermarket. Heyhouses Lane/Queensway which is the principal access road to the M55 is, as a result, operating over capacity and severe congestion is experienced daily at several junctions on route to the motorway.

With Blackpool Airport taking up most of the northern border of Lytham St Annes there are only two regular routes to the motorway from the town and this adds to the congestion, virtually closing the town when road closures occur due to maintenance or accidents. In an attempt to escape the congestion and queuing times on these roads two other rural routes have been utilised by motorists on inadequate moss roads. One of these roads has had to be closed indefinitely due to subsidence caused by the weight of traffic and this has again contributed to the congestion.

With the job losses in Fylde many people have been forced to commute to other locations in the North West to either continue their employment or to seek new positions and have no option but to endure the congestion twice daily. Commencement of work on constructing the Link Road has been anticipated for many years and I am concerned that if this bid is rejected it will have a catastrophic effect in confidence in the area. If the road is not built soon it will not only severely hit the local economy but will prevent the construction of almost 2000 houses. It will also almost certainly prompt an exodus from the town as I know from my postbag that the thought that the construction of the road is imminent is the only factor which is stopping people from moving house. I receive weekly complaints of the congestion and the hours that people are involved in queuing and it is only the belief that a start on building the road is imminent that is keeping many people going.

I hope that you will give favourable consideration to this bid.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hayhurst
Lancashire County Councillor
Fylde West Division

Dear Sirs

I am sending you this plea to start repairs to the above road as soon as possible. The road was shut over 4 years ago due to its dangerous condition. As a result Queensway has horrendous traffic congestion at rush hours which causes build up of traffic in the side roads often turning the whole place into a park. My fellow Fylde Cllrs. are inundated with complaints from frustrated commuters, we want to promote the area to new business but we know that the lack of access deters these potential new businesses from locating to Fylde.

Please make this road a top priority to enable the whole of Fylde to prosper.

Many thanks.

Kind regards

Cllr. Barbara Nash
Heyhouses Ward
Fylde Borough Council

Dear Sirs, I write to support the proposed link road. St. Annes is in an extremely difficult position currently, in that there are only two entrances to the town from the northern side, and both are overloaded. The entrance via Queensway in particular has queues lasting over 30 minutes at peak times and the building of this new road would totally eliminate this problem

I am receiving many e mails and contacts from our residents who complain that their commute to and from work is totally frustrating and I am sure this issue deters both business people and tourists from making the journey.

The approval of the road would be a great relief to all of us in the borough.

Sincerely,

Vince Settle

Councillor for Heyhouses Ward, Fylde Borough Council