



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

Mr Steve Berry OBE
Department for Transport
2/15 Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 4DR

28 October 2019

Dear Mr Berry,

Department for Transport Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund

As guardian of the Lancashire sub-national economy and on behalf of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, I write to express the support for the bids made by Lancashire County Council and the two Unitary Authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool in relation to the Department for Transport Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund.

Lancashire County Council's bid is for the repair of retaining walls in east Lancashire and expression of interest for maintenance works for the A601(M). Blackburn with Darwen's bid focusses on four large highways structures and retaining walls which have been assessed as needing urgent attention. A successful bid is critical to keep the highway network functional and to prevent future weight restrictions or selective road and lane closures. Blackpool's bid is for preventative measures on classified roads using innovative technology.

The maintenance of the strategic road network across Lancashire is crucially important to both existing and future economic growth and there is good cross border working between Lancashire County Council and the Unitary Authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

The A601(M) is of strategic importance, especially to the North Lancashire and South Cumbria economy, and secures a BCR of 5 when potential land value uplift is added to the transport benefits, realising circa £27M.

The bid from Lancashire County Council relating to retaining walls supports the Resilient Route Network in East Lancashire that maintains a key access link to support its economy. This will entail major repairs to the retaining walls identified to ensure the routes capable of supporting the economy of East Lancashire and providing key links to existing and potential development sites remain open. The BCR scores underline the importance of this bid in supporting the local economy. Blackburn with Darwen has also bid for funding in relation to highway structures and retaining walls. The structures are key to improving the resilience of the Borough's key economic corridors, including the A666 Bolton Road corridor which carries over 15,000 cross-boundary vehicles per day and A675 Belmont Road corridor carrying over 5,000 cross-boundary vehicles per day

Blackpool's bid focusses on a variety of technological solutions to allow cutting edge road repair technologies, which are more economic than traditional techniques, to be deployed to assist the Road Asset Management delivery and to further protect Blackpool's Resilient Road Network.

The bid will be used in treating the entire classified road network, known locally as the Strategic Road Network (SRN), carriageways, footways, borough-wide cycle routes and drainage assets, including 0.4km of motorway which is the main 'gateway' to the town, linking Blackpool to the national trunk road network and cannot be done using existing resources and funding; and a key underground subway structure. Failure of any of the above would be catastrophic as the SRN is critical to the socio-economic value of Blackpool's future.

These bids for funding are strategically important to the whole of Lancashire in order to level up the infrastructure assets that other LEP's have enjoyed. Lancashire Enterprise Partnership supports all of the above submissions as they will compliment projects that have already received investment through the Lancashire Growth Deal Programme such as the Darwen East Development Corridor project.

Steve Fogg



Chair
Lancashire Enterprise partnership

cc; Paul O'Hara, Policy Advisor Local Infrastructure, Department for Transport
cc; Angie Ridgewell, Chief Executive & Director of Resources Lancashire County Council
cc; Neil Jack, Chief Executive Officer Blackpool Council
cc; Denise Park, Chief Executive Officer Blackburn with Darwen Council