

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
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**Leader of the Council**  
**Councillor Keith House**

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Dear Secretary of State

### **Chickenhall Lane Link Road**

On 17 March 2017 the Council and other key stakeholders met with our local Member of Parliament, Mims Davies, at her request to discuss infrastructure requirements in Eastleigh, particularly the Chickenhall Lane Link Road. Mims asked that we all write to you confirming our strong commitment to the Chickenhall Lane Link Road scheme which is urgently needed and fully supported by the local community.

This letter is in addition to our own submissions in support of this scheme.

The Chickenhall Lane Link Road will deliver a wide range of benefits. It will provide a by-pass to Eastleigh town, unlock major new employment land, serve Southampton International Airport, Southampton Parkway mainline rail station and link to the M27 motorway and Southampton urban area. Taking these points in more detail:

The by-pass will relieve significant existing traffic congestion in and around Eastleigh town centre. This will generate economic benefits for the commercial heart of the town and improve air quality in an area suffering from pollution and designated an air quality management zone. With the growing population and traffic growth in the area, the problems caused by congestion will only increase without action.

The link road will assist planned housing growth and also improve the prospects for the longer term provision of a significant number of new homes. The link road will significantly facilitate car and potentially bus movements from this growing area of population in the wider Southampton housing market area to the economic hubs both within the city and in adjoining areas along the M27 corridor.

The link road also unlocks the delivery of major new employment land and airport growth along its route:

- The potential to intensify and modernise older industrial areas in a highly accessible location adjacent to Eastleigh railway station and town centre;
- The delivery of a major new high quality employment site of c 146,800 sqm. Once road access is achieved this site is in an excellent commercial location adjacent to the international airport, mainline rail station, and with easy access to the M27 and wider Southampton/Eastleigh urban areas. It would deliver high quality economic and job growth, increased productivity and competitiveness, including a possible new science and/or business park.
- A wider range of options for the expansion of Southampton International Airport in accordance with the Airport's masterplan. The Airport not only serves South Hampshire and the wider south coast but has excellent rail accessibility from Surrey and south west London, to the extent that it provides genuine alternative capacity for specific flight routes for London's airports.

The proposed road has additional costs associated with the need to cross two railway lines and maintain airport safety at the northern end of the airport runway. Therefore the total cost of the road is estimated to be £150-170million. This is therefore not a matter for local stakeholders to solve alone, even with significant development being planned for in the area; it needs significant central funding to enable the scheme and unlock the benefits it will bring.

One year ago in its March 2016 Budget this Government announced a Local Majors Fund, specifically and explicitly including Chickenhall Lane Link Road scheme:

*"This Budget launches the Local Majors Fund, so that local areas in the South East can bid for funding for large local transport schemes including the Chickenhall Link Road." (1.344)*

Despite this promise, in August 2016 the Government rejected bids from the Solent LEP (of which Eastleigh Borough Council is a member) for funding to initiate this scheme.

Given the substantial and wide ranging benefits the road will bring, we believe it merits very serious consideration. We strongly urge the Secretary of State to support the future bid for funding for this scheme.

Yours sincerely



Keith House  
**LEADER**

cc Mims Davies MP