20 February 2017

To whom it may concern

I write in support of Cambridgeshire County Council which I understand is submitting a bid for road funding to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The condition of rural roads in the Fenland area is a key local issue, and I am regularly contacted by constituents who raise their concerns. Well maintained roads are vital to the local economy, to further encourage investment and open up development in rural Fenland.

These roads have suffered repeated damage due to drought conditions and I fully support Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council with their bid for funds to maintain these roads in the most cost effective manner.

The authorities are committed to implementing an asset management approach to highways maintenance and I support the application of these principles to these rural roads. The local subsoil conditions and the need for additional investment to avoid repeated short-term fixes help make what I consider to be a very strong case for funding.

I therefore wholeheartedly support this bid and encourage DfT to help facilitate the long-term condition of these important rural roads.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Barclay MP
Mr Mike Atkins  
Highways Asset Manager  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
SSH1313, Shire Hall  
Castle Hill  
Cambridge, CB3 0AP  

20 February 2017

Dear Mr Atkins

I write to express my support for Cambridgeshire County Council’s bid for funding from the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund.

As you are aware, Fenland roads can suffer from a greater rate of deterioration as they are susceptible to drought damage and subsoil movement. Additionally, research shows that soils with an increasing risk of subsidence have higher road degradation and this is evident in the Fens.

It is important to recognise that whilst these may not be major routes, they nevertheless provide much needed vehicular access for our communities. I should add that over the years I have been approached by many of my constituent’s about the standard of some Fenland roads. The rapid decline of the road surfaces can cause potholes, damage to cars, and they pose an increased risk of traffic collisions.

I wholeheartedly support the Council’s attempt to address the underlying issue, for roads built on silt and peat soils, to undertake deeper treatments to the highways affected. I am happy for you to share this letter with the Department for Transport.

I wish you every success with the Challenge Fund bid.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Dear Sir/Madam,

**EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR LOCAL HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE FUND**

I am writing to confirm the support of the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership for the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund bid submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership exists to drive sustainable economic growth in our area. A significant part of our area is rural in nature, with a higher than national average presence of SMEs across a range of sectors such as advanced manufacturing. The area of the bid also contains the largest concentration of the highest grade agricultural land in England, which supports a thriving and crucially important Food and Drink sector.

As the bid highlights, the agricultural value of the Fens brings with it the challenge of vulnerability of the road network to drought damage. If we are to meet the aspirations of growth set out in both our Strategic Economic Plan and the government’s Food and Drink Strategy then it is crucial that the transport network in the bid area is fit for purpose and resilient. The Enterprise Partnership is investing in tackling congestion hotspots across the bid area, but there is also a need to address the maintenance of existing roads.

The bid area also includes communities with high levels of deprivation (individual Wards are amongst the worst for deprivation in England according the Index of Multiple Deprivation). Driving new economic growth in these areas is vital to helping to tackle this deprivation, of which a resilient transport network underpins that growth.

(The undersigned is the official authorised representative of the Enterprise Partnership)

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cannard, Director of Strategy
To whom it may concern,

Department for Transport, local highways maintenance challenge fund.

We are very pleased to support this bid. Peterborough and its sub-region, along with Cambridgeshire, is one of the fastest growing economies in the UK. One of its key sectors is food and drink, and agri-food - with some of the country's most productive agricultural land and global players in the food production, processing and distribution industries. It is also a major employer locally, providing a range of job opportunities from basic employment through to management and high technology.

As such, fully functioning infrastructure is vital to the success of this sector and poor, or failing, road systems present a significant barrier to growth.

We would support this bid as a crucial intervention in securing both the economic sustainability of this area and sector and as securing vital infrastructure which will secure its future growth and prosperity.

Yours Faithfully

Steve Bowyer
Chief Executive Officer