

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