

Our ref:
Your ref:

Richard Marshall
Regional Director
3 South
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds LS11 9AT

Tony Hanson
Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood
Services)
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Direct Line: 0300 470 2507

30 June 2017

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Hanson

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY INVESTMENT FUND: HARTLEPOOL

Thank you for speaking to Highways England about the Council's bid to the National Productivity Investment Fund.

As you are aware, we have been working closely with Hartlepool Borough Council and the Tees Valley Combined Authority to develop a programme of schemes on the Strategic Road Network and Tees Valley Key Route Network that complement each other and support the economic growth of the region over the short, medium and long term.

Through our work with you we recognise that development of housing to the east of Hartlepool is essential to enable the Council to meet housing and economic growth needs in the medium and long term. With your support, we have secured £800,000 to improve the A19/A179 Sheraton junction from the Congestion Relief Fund announced in the 2016 Autumn Statement, which helps address existing safety problems which exist at the junction and unlock some of the development expected to come forward in this area in the short term. Meanwhile, the A19 Norton to Wynyard widening scheme being delivered as part of the Road Investment Strategy addresses some of the longer-term capacity issues which exist on the A19 south of Hartlepool.

However, the A19 east of Hartlepool also has a number of at-grade right turns at the junctions around Elwick Village and Dalton Piercy, and as a result of poor historic safety performance and increasing queues for right-turning vehicles, we have placed a robust objection to any development resulting in increased demand at the junctions. This is currently constraining development of more than 2,200 new homes in this part of the borough over the plan period and beyond.

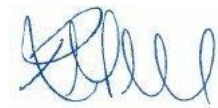
Through work we have undertaken with the Council and developers, we have identified that the construction of a new compact grade separated junction on the A19 near Elwick, along with an improved route into Hartlepool via a new bypass of the village, will

provide the improvements necessary to allow us to remove this objection so that housing development in the Local Plan can go ahead. For Highways England, this scheme will improve the safety of the strategic road network and the experience of our road user customers, both of which are strategic objectives, and it will help secure the full benefits of the other schemes listed above. We therefore wholeheartedly support the proposal and if successful we look forward to working with you to ensure its efficient delivery.

In the medium to longer term our work in partnership with the Council and the Combined Authority on the New Tees Crossing programme, funded by the DfT through the Large Local Majors programme, will address the needs of the network in the longer term to support the development of Hartlepool and its contribution to the economic growth aspirations of Tees Valley and the North of England.

If there is any way that Highways England can further help the Council to realise its economic aspirations, please let us know and we will be glad to work with you in any way we are able to.

Yours sincerely



Richard Marshall
Regional Director
Operations Yorkshire & North East
Email: richard.marshall@highwaysengland.co.uk