

## Appendix 2.7

Letter of Support from Stafford Borough  
Council





Mr C Thomson  
Commissioner for Transport & the Connected County  
Staffordshire County Council  
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OUR REF  
YOUR REF  
DATE 5 August 2014

Dear Clive,

### **Stafford Western Access Route**

Stafford Borough Council would like to express its support for the Major Scheme Business Case being prepared by your officers for the Western Access Route in Stafford. The recent news that funding for this key road link had been approved under the Local Growth Fund is a major boost to achieving our growth agenda.

As you will be aware, the Borough Council recently adopted its local plan, The Plan for Stafford Borough, which sees 7,000 houses built and 90 hectares of employment land provided in Stafford over the next 17 years. Planning applications have already been approved for over 2,000 of these dwellings, plus two new business parks that are under construction. In addition, the Western Access Route provides essential road infrastructure to support the £70 million town centre retail scheme that has recently commenced.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan that accompanies the new local plan highlights the importance of the Western Access Route as an enabler for planned growth of the county town. Without this new road linking the A518 to the west with the A34 to the north of Stafford, we will not realise the 70% in-migration envisaged by our ambitious plan.

The road will complement other action to encourage modal shift, including new cycleways and pedestrian routes, and a bus corridor to replace the present disjointed bus system in Stafford. We will continue to work closely with you and your colleagues in the County Council to deliver the highway infrastructure for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Ian D Thompson  
Chief Executive

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#### **Stafford Borough Council**

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