



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Professor Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive

David Boyer
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Faisal Rashid
Constituency Office
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12th January 2018

Your Ref:
Our Ref: WL-TFW-07-XX-RI-K-1 Response 120118

Dear. Mr. Rashid

RE: LETTER DATED 4th JANUARY

Thank you for the recent letter regarding the concerns around the funding mix currently proposed to support the local WBC contribution to the Western Link scheme, specifically that relating to the further development of Port Warrington and the business rate income that this would generate.

We would note that at this stage what has been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) is an Outline Business Case (OBC) and is only part-way through the process for gaining central government funding. The content of the OBC will be subject to further update going forward as more detailed development is undertaken. This will influence the scheme in cost, delivery programme and financing terms. As you can appreciate this is not a straightforward process, will involve a significant investment of time and money and which will take several years to complete. All of this will naturally be predicated on the outcome of the bidding process which, as I am sure you are already aware, we are anticipating an outcome around May 2018.

Council Officers are already preparing for forthcoming questions from the DfT on the OBC; which we understand will be distributed to all scheme promoters between now and May. In advance of these questions, officers are preparing responses to potential questions on the Financial Case for the scheme, which will include alternative funding arrangements based on different development mixes. It is also important from the Council's perspective that we undertake this work to ensure we have suitable contingency plans for funding the scheme should conditions change.

Noting the comments in your letter, the above assessments will include alternative scenarios that do not include Port Warrington and remove any reliance of the Western Link on resultant business rate income. We will be reporting to you on these alternative scenarios when Officers are significantly progressed with the work.

We are in absolute agreement that the constituency of Warrington South and the wider borough of Warrington is long overdue significant investment in its transport infrastructure to alleviate the well documented congestion issues it and its residents suffer.



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I trust that this has gone some way to answering your queries but should you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please also accept my offer of thanks for your continued support for the scheme.

Yours sincerely

David Boyer