

19 March 2018

Mr Andrew Barrett-Miles
Chairman
Environment, Community &
Fire Select Committee

Dear Mr Barrett-Miles,

Environmental, Community and Fire Select Committee – County Council's Proposed Response to the Department for Transport's (DfT's) Consultation on the creation of a Major Road Network (MRN)

At its meeting on 16 March 2018 the Committee supported the roads that were proposed for inclusion in the MRN and the draft consultation response, taking into account the following comments:

- Supported any improvement to the road network, however recognised the need to ensure the proposed MRN did not create any additional financial burden on the County Council. **The proposed consultation response identifies the need for the DfT to address the need for funding to be made available for business case development and to address any increased maintenance liabilities that result from improvements to the MRN.**
- Supported the proposed amendments to the MRN route as outlined in the map, recognising the importance of including an alternative East-West coastal route. **Support welcomed.**
- Highlighted the lack of resilience for the A27 from the Bognor Roundabout to the Hampshire border in the current proposals, and recognised the consultation response as an opportunity to highlight the lack of an alternative route round Chichester. **A reference has been added to the response to highlight concerns about the resilience of the proposed MRN at Chichester and heading west to the Hampshire border because there are no alternatives to the A27. A reference has also been added to the work of the 'Build A Better A27' project and the need for the DfT to give a commitment to reviewing the MRN in the Chichester area 'as and when' a preferred option for the A27 at Chichester is identified and taken forward for delivery by Highways England.**
- Recognised the issues of Air Quality around Cowfold and supported a review of the inclusion of this area in the MRN. **It is recognised that an Air Quality Management Area has been designated at Cowfold to address poor air quality. However, the A272 between the A24 (at Buck Barn) and the A23 is part of the County Council's strategic road network (as identified in the Local Transport Plan 2011-2026) and it forms part of the advisory lorry route for the County.**

Furthermore, traffic flows on the A272 through Cowfold are high (c18k Annual Average Daily Trips) and the number of HGVs and LGVs are near to the 5% and 15% quantitative thresholds. Therefore, it is considered that the inclusion of the A272 in the MRN is appropriate. However, the County Council will continue to work with key partners to address air quality issues in the village.

- Supported a representation to DfT to include criteria for MRN for short stretches of road whose vehicle movements impact on the Strategic Road Network. **It is recognised that there will be parts of the local road network that link to the SRN and that are impacted by it (and that impact on the SRN). However, it is important to recognise that a DfT qualitative criterion (which is supported by the County Council) is to recreate an MRN that is consistent and coherent. This means that the DfT is only looking to add links that join up stretches of road (that meet the thresholds) to form continuous sections of road and that it is looking to remove (not add) isolated links. Therefore, it is not considered that it would be appropriate to make the suggested representation to the DfT.**

I hope the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Bob Lanzer

Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure