

Cabinet - 24 March 2020**Item 6: Environment and Transport 2020/21 Highways Capital Programme and Highways and Transportation Work Programme****Loughborough Town Centre**

I would like to express my strong support for advanced design work for Loughborough Growth Area Strategy (Loughborough Town Centre) – YP97 is included in this year's programme to support future growth of Loughborough. This was reflected by one senior officer as, "Epinal Way is not working" and at certain times it is true that congestion is preventing traffic accessing and egressing from the Town Centre. The Ashby Road roundabout which feeds M1 J23 is frequently near standstill at peak times. This creates huge difficulties for public transport, notably Arriva and Kinchbus, as there is little or no bus priority.

I am sure this will enhance our bid for Leicestershire's only candidate for Town Deal funding and look forward to early consultation.

I would also like to see this project given more recognition in Theme 4 (Travel within and around County Towns) of the recent Strategic Transport Priorities.

Capital Funding

I would like to support the concerns in the Scrutiny Report (para 29) for a clearer understanding of the influence the larger road projects will have on the wider road network. The current economic slow down, possibly verging on an economic depression, will massively add to the uncertainty of our growth programme. In particular, the construction industry can give us no guarantee of early developer funding.

DfT criteria for funding is also subject to Treasury re-appraisal and we have yet to establish our own priorities in the forthcoming LTP4.

Each of the projects in the programme therefore need to be strictly risk assessed before schedules and priorities are set.

From Max Hunt CC

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