



Date: 18 November 2020

Dear Councillor Rushton

CPRE Leicestershire is very concerned to see what appears to be an assumption in the papers for Friday's cabinet meeting item on the Strategic Transport Priorities 2020 to 2050 that the Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan can be retained in its current form.

We believe it now requires a complete rethink, as a proper fully consulted statutory plan, for the following reasons:

- Midlands Connect says the A46 Expressway is not viable;
- The approach of building more roads will increase traffic and congestion;
- The councils have declared a Climate Change Emergency;
- The countryside is needed to soak up carbon emissions not to cater for car-dependent housing;
- Covid-19 can be expected to have a lasting impact on the way people live and work;
- The only sensible way forward is that there needs to be a new emphasis on the Green economy;
- Housing number predictions for the period until 2050 will be impacted in a number of ways - by the Governments planning reforms, Brexit, the hollowing out of cities etc.

The recent report from Midlands Connect with its emphasis on more road building solutions adds to our concerns. (<https://www.midlandsconnect.uk/media/1726/mc-a46-corridor-study-phase-2-final-report-november-2020.pptx>).

The whole set of proposals and their road-building ambitions on the A46 and a distributor road east of Leicester are driven by an agenda which seems entirely at odds with Climate Change, cutting congestion and curbing greenhouse gas emissions. We find the continuation of this approach extremely worrying.

Do we need to spend a fortune on roads and big infrastructure? No. We need to 'Build back Better but Greener'. Can we do it? Not unless we make rapid and very comprehensive changes immediately.

Best wishes

John Marriott

CPRE Leicestershire Trustee and Transport Lead

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