

Email from Mr. John Marriott, 15 December 2022.

### **The Melton Northern Distributor Road Conundrum**

The County Council is now in a dire financial position; essentially down to a few factors:

- A complete lack of integration between transport and planning throughout government;
- A drive for more housing without considering the location or the transport and social implications;
- The extraction of land value by a few speculators meaning that there is little value left to fund essential services or infrastructure;
- Short lived and ill-thought out Government competitive funding streams, that prioritise road capacity increases, without considering the wider consequences;
- A government approach to Transport Appraisal which places most value on journey time savings;
- A desire to build more highway infrastructure in the belief that it will mitigate traffic and is somehow essential;
- Decades of failure to put into practice stated ambitions to improve alternatives to using cars and design developments appropriately from the outset.

The Cabinet Report is recommending that the County Council should proceed with the construction of the MM DR North and East. This has severe financial consequences for other services across the whole county and it will place a significant burden on current and future generations.

I suggest the report is deficient in its examination of the alternatives. There are a number of statements which are not supported by the information provided and these need clarification.

There are now a number of authorities across the country which are in a similar predicament having fallen into the same trap of following Government mantra without understanding the risks. These include Cumbria (£134m), Oxfordshire (£218m), Gloucestershire (£249m) and Mid-Devon (£8.2m). Some have managed to secure additional funding, although it is by no means clear that this will be sufficient to deliver the schemes as envisaged.

**It is time to think very hard about climate change commitments and the environment. This will require a complete reappraisal of the "Growth at any cost" agenda and the full integration of land use planning and transport around social and truly sustainable objectives.**

The Melton Distributor Road as proposed is certainly not essential and represents extremely poor value for Leicestershire.

I understand that the government can't even produce guidance on Local Transport Plans. To have any credibility it is essential that these must be statutory documents prepared in conjunction with Local Plans or their replacement.

I hope you can draw this to the attention of the Cabinet. I have copied this to Lynne Stinson as she has informed me that the people listed as contacts in the report are currently indisposed.

Regards

John Marriott

Three attachments