

From: [Hannah Clark](#)
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Subject: Issue Specific Hearing: Traffic & Transportation, Oral Submission
Date: 18 June 2019 10:22:54
Attachments: [Councillor Andrea Davis Oral Submission Summary.pdf](#)

Good morning

Please find attached a summary of Councillor Andrea Davis' oral submission at the Traffic & Transportation Issue Specific Hearing.

Many thanks for agreeing to amend the agenda slightly to enable Item 8 to be brought forward. This was very much appreciated given our travel arrangements.

Kind regards
Hannah

Hannah Clark

Senior Transport Planning Officer
Planning, Transportation and Environment

Devon County Council
AB2 Lucombe House
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD
01392383000

Disclaimer <http://www.devon.gov.uk/email.shtml>

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/email/>

Click [here](#) to read about how we use information about you and how we protect your privacy

A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down
Issue Specific Hearing 6: Traffic and Transportation
Summary of Oral Submission

Councillor Andrea Davis, Cabinet member for Infrastructure, Waste & Development (Devon County Council), Vice-Chairman of Peninsula Transport Sub-National Transport Body, Chairman of Peninsula Rail Task Force, Chairman of Local Transport Board (Heart of the South West LEP), Vice-Chairman of Exmoor National Park Authority

I live in North Devon within Exmoor National Park and am speaking on behalf of all the above organisations and, most importantly, the residents, businesses and visitors that I am elected to serve.

Strategic road and rail links between the South West Peninsula and the rest of the UK are limited and fragile. We on the Peninsula are in the front line for extreme weather events driven by climate change. Strategic road and rail links have been significantly disrupted in recent years, cutting off the region from the rest of the UK.

The South West is heavily dependent on tourism, with 29% of visitors coming from the South East and 85% travelling by car.

Extreme weather disruption in 2014 punched a £1.2bn hole in the region's economy.

The National Audit Office were right to highlight the wider economic benefits. The Stonehenge scheme and other planned improvements have greater economic benefits, and this goes beyond the cultural heritage benefits.

Our region's rural productivity is 10% lower than average for English rural areas. GVA per head in the areas served by the A303/A358/A30 corridor is £7k less than the UK average (£18,849 compared to £25,878 nationally). An independent Economic Impact Study has shown that improving the whole A303/A358/A30 corridor would deliver a £40bn uplift to the South West Economy and create 21,000 jobs.

Improving the corridor supports the Government's Industrial Strategy aims to rebalance the economy and increase prosperity in poorer areas. Torbay, North Devon and Torridge made up three of the ten local authorities nationally where people earn the lowest average pay (analysis by Social Market Federation 2017).

From Exmoor National Park's perspective, we are the least visited National Park. We know that 93% of our visitors come by private car. 50% come from within the South West including Dorset and Wiltshire, for which the A3030 is a crucial link, 15% from the South East and 9% overseas – this is a high growth opportunity and improved accessibility would certainly help.

Our tourism providers suggest a major issue limiting additional visitors is bottlenecks. Journey time from London and the South East is quite attractive to Exmoor if there are no delays. However, congestion is a real issue for visitors.

Benefit to cost calculations are important but they are only one of a series of criteria that enable decisions to be made. The population of the South West Peninsula see an obvious need to improve the A303. The Stonehenge section has been the main stumbling block and there is a recognition that the solution needs to be sympathetic to the World Heritage Site.

Big decisions need a vision and leadership. I represent many constituents and businesses in the South West Peninsula who wish to see this scheme completed and reap the benefits of all the work that has been undertaken so far.