

County Hall
Topsham Road
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By email

Email: andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

28 November 2018

Letter of support by Devon County Council

Dear Ms Gregory

Re: A303 Sparkford to Ilchester

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposals to dual the A303 from Sparkford to Ilchester on behalf of Devon County Council.

The A303 Sparkford to Ilchester scheme, along with other schemes currently being progressed at Amesbury to Berwick Down and Ilminster to M5 at Taunton, are vital first steps towards achieving a whole route improvement and as such are strongly supported by Devon County Council.

The Devon economy, along with other South West counties of Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall, contribute proportionally less to the UK economy than other regions as measured by GVA per head. Our wages are below the average for the whole South West. We have a unique opportunity to contribute more to the national economy by releasing the untapped potential in the South West economy through investment in this vital piece of infrastructure. The dualling of the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester section will form an important element of the final whole route upgrade.

Devon County Council strongly support the Government's commitment to improving the A303/A30/A358 corridor to create a safe, efficient and resilient second strategic route between London and the South West Peninsula. Delivering that commitment is vital to our region's economic growth and resilience of our transport connectivity with the rest of the UK. It is a critical project with wider implications for the rebalancing of the UK economy and harnessing the productivity potential of the Peninsula region.

However, the full economic benefit for the UK will only be achieved with a full end-to-end improvement along the A303/A358/A30 corridor. The remaining unimproved sections, including the A30 between Honiton and Southfields, will need to receive funding allocations in future RIS periods in order to ensure to proven need for a

strategic second link to the economic growth areas in the South West Peninsula are met.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrea Davis

County Councillor for the electoral division of Combe Martin Rural
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste