



Andrew Seekings
Chief Executive of Cumberland Council
Sam Plum
Chief Executive of Westmorland & Furness Council

By email

26th February 2024

Dear Andrew and Sam,

Conservative Government's Local Transport Fund

As you will be aware the Government has announced a very significant allocation of funding for local transport infrastructure in our area. For each area, over seven years this funding totals:

- Cumberland: £147million
- Westmorland & Furness: £129million

We are delighted with this announcement. This funding is a once in generation opportunity to transform the road infrastructure in Cumberland and Westmorland. And of course, comes on the back of last week's £287m additional roads funding announcement, as well as the hundreds of millions of pounds across our various levelling-up funding streams announced since 2019.

Our view is that this new funding should be used strategically to concentrate on a fundamental upgrade from the A69 right through the A595 to Barrow, and the A590 connecting to the M6.

Such improvements will have hugely significant benefits across the region which would include:

- Improving the economic performance and growing the Cumbrian economy.
- Improving journey times dramatically as well as road safety.
- Bringing enormous benefit to health provision and access to health services.
- Generally improving connectivity which will bring wider social and cultural benefits.

To achieve this we would call for immediate action on the following:

1. Re-trunk the A689 and plan upgrading the road whilst de-trunking the Warwick Bridge section of the A69;
2. Immediately commence work on the delayed Grizebeck bypass;
3. Programme with National Highways the planned safety and resilience upgrades to the strategic A590 corridor,
4. Immediately commence work on the Bothel Strategic Improvement Project;
5. Commence the Brigham Broughton junction improvements alongside National Highways, and
6. Design and schedule improvements to Duddon Bridge.

These projects have all appeared in various reports on Cumbria's transport requirements over the years, and have been prioritised by the councils.



Following this, over the next year there must be a plan to implement the required improvements to completely upgrade the A595, and support the wider A590 strategic corridor review so these roads are truly fit for purpose.

This is a unique opportunity for MPs, central Government, and local authorities to work together to ensure we have a strategic road infrastructure which our constituents aspire to and deserve.

We would welcome a discussion with you so that we can work together to deliver these projects on which the sustainability of Cumbria relies.

Yours Sincerely,


Simon Fell MP


Trudy Harrison MP



John Stevenson MP



Dr Neil Hudson MP


Mark Jenkinson MP