



Councillor Mark Fryer  
Leader, Cumberland Council  
Cumbria House  
117 Botchergate  
Carlisle  
CA1 1RD

26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Mark,

Last week I wrote to you about the Brigham/Broughton junction and the Bothel Strategic Improvements Scheme, both of which you asked me in your letter of last April to help you deliver. I said that I remained committed to finding routes to funding these projects and would not rest until we saw shovels in the ground.

I am delighted to say that I have delivered on my promises, and now I'm asking you to play your part.

Today the Government has announced an additional £149m for local transport priorities, as part of the HS2 reallocations. This comes alongside £130m for highways maintenance confirmed recently, the funding for the upgrades to the Cumbrian Coast railway line, and £millions in additional funding for sustainable bus routes. I know that, regrettably, your highways portfolio holder supported the continuation of HS2 over this reallocation to bus, road, and rail improvements, but HS2 would have delivered little to my constituents. The reallocation has the potential to fundamentally change the lives of Cumberland residents and deliver the growth that we need, while addressing the inequalities that exist because of our geography and population.

Your former Leader in Allerdale used to say "it's all about three roads and a railway", and on that we've always been aligned. Between the various Levelling Up funding streams, which are delivering £tens of millions in road improvements, the additional highways allocations, and these various HS2 reallocations, we have given local authorities the investment to improve them all.

The next few years will see projects across Cumberland bear the fruit of seeds this government has planted with your council, and its predecessors, over the last 14 years. I remember a former Chief Executive telling me that the £25m Workington Town Deal would be a "gamechanger" if it happened. We have not only delivered that, but hundreds of millions of pounds in addition. It will be truly transformational for our villages, towns and cities.

The Transport Secretary has asked you to consult Members of Parliament to understand our priorities for this new funding and we have already written to your Chief Executive as a group of five Cumbrian MPs that host the A595, to set out our priorities. On that list were the Bothel improvements and a small capital contribution to ensure that the Brigham/Broughton roundabout can be delivered.

Since 2019 I have relentlessly pursued the transport priorities that I promised in my campaign. I have not taken no for an answer at any point. In a little over four years, I have delivered more than



any of my predecessors under any government. But my work does not stop there, and I look forward to working with you to deliver these projects and any emerging priorities – not only in what remains of this parliament, but also in the next one.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Jenkinson MP**

cc. Councillor Martin Harris, Dearham and Broughton Ward  
Councillor Andrew Semple, Cockermouth South Ward