

Nicholas Rushton
Leader of the Council
Leicestershire County Council

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Please ask for: Ms Inez Smith

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Date: 21 June 2021

Dear Nick,

Cabinet Report 22nd June 2021: MMDR Southern Section and Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant

On Tuesday, the County Council's Cabinet will make one of the most important decisions about Melton's future prosperity for a generation.

If you reject the Housing Infrastructure Fund, the southern bypass may never get built, and the key southern neighbourhood, poised to deliver over 2,000 much needed homes may be fatally undermined. Congestion will get worse and it will be open season for developers in Melton, and the communities in our town and villages will pay the price.

No-one wants to do this:

- 6 District Council Leaders in Leicestershire have written to you expressing significant concerns about the approach you are taking.
- Alicia Kearns MP has written asking you to accept the grant and deliver the road.
- The RH Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State, has also now written to you asking the County Council to rethink.
- And since last Monday, over 2,100 people have signed a petition calling on you to fulfil your promise and deliver the road.

The petition accompanies this letter and I ask that both this letter and the petition are considered by your Cabinet at your meeting tomorrow.

To help the County Council manage the risks involved, Melton Borough Council has already:

- Secured over 99% of developer contributions requested by the County Council in the last 5 years.

- Formally agreed to 'flex' Local Plan policy requirements in favour of the County Council so developer contributions for education will be significantly boosted.
- Produced a Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document which prioritises the recovery of contributions for highways and education above all over infrastructure requirements.

As we have repeatedly said, the Borough Council remain ready to continue negotiations and enter an agreement to underwrite any shortfall arising from matters within our control, and up to a reasonable maximum. Prospective developers and colleagues at MHCLG and Homes England are also ready to resume discussions so we can find a way forward.

No-one wants you to do what you are proposing.

I urge you not to reject the HIF, but to work with us to secure this funding and deliver the homes, jobs and prosperity Melton deserves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Orson'.

Councillor Joe Orson
Leader – Melton Borough Council