

County Council – 24 March 2017

Agenda Items 12(a) and (b) – Notices of Motion by Dr Walsh and Ms James

A27

On 28 February 2017, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling, the Secretary of State for Transport, wrote to Jim O'Sullivan, the Chief Executive of Highways England, stating that, following consideration of the representations, he was cancelling the A27 Chichester Bypass Improvement scheme and that the consultation findings would be published (which has now taken place).

The Leaders of West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and the Chairman of Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership have jointly written to the Secretary of State expressing disappointment and seeking a meeting to persuade the Secretary of State to reconsider his decision. A response to the joint letter has not yet been received.

On 6 March 2017, MPs, councillors, community groups and campaigners met to discuss the Secretary of State's announcement and pledged their support for finding a way forward for the improvements at Chichester. Community workshops are being arranged to draw on the expertise and knowledge of people locally and outside the local authorities where needed, to help develop consensus for options or a solution to put to the Government and ask them to reconsider their decision.

The County Council has allocated £10m in the Capital Programme towards the A27 Chichester scheme. The Secretary of State has indicated that this contribution is vital to the successful delivery of the scheme. If efforts to convince the Government to reconsider their decision are unsuccessful, then the use of this capital allocation can be reconsidered as part of the usual governance of the Capital Programme.

Development that is permitted or planned in local plans will come forward over their lifetime and will generate additional traffic that exacerbates issues on the A27 at Chichester unless minor improvements to that road and the surrounding road network are delivered. However, major improvements to the A27 are not currently required to mitigate the impacts of development.

Consultations on options for the A27 at Arundel, Worthing and Lancing are planned for summer 2017. Each scheme is being considered on its merits, and the Secretary of State has stated that the delivery of the A27 Arundel Bypass should proceed as planned.

Lee Harris

Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment