

Councillor Matthew Brown
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Your ref:
Our ref: CCAR/LD
Date: 21 July 2022

Dear Councillor Matthew Brown

Active Preston – Transforming Community Infrastructure (Levelling Up Fund)

As Lancashire County Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth, I would like to confirm the county council's full support for Preston's "Active Preston - Transforming Community Infrastructure" Levelling Up Fund Bid and the proposals that are set out within it. Lancashire County Council has worked closely with Preston City Council in support of a range of economic development and regeneration initiatives and these proposals will help realise further benefits from investment that the county council has already made.

As a principal commercial and service centre Preston is at the heart of Lancashire's economy. Linked by six major motorways and strategically located on the North West Coast Mainline Preston's locational advantage is clear. However, the city continues to lag behind economically and has persistent high levels of health deprivation with many residents unable to access employment opportunities.

Preston's LUF proposals, consistent with the aims and objectives of the LUF and Levelling Up White Paper, seek to tackle these complex issues by prioritising investment for major parks and active travel infrastructure to support a healthy, liveable and sustainably connected city.

A stronger Preston will make a greater contribution to delivering sustainable growth in Lancashire and the wider region.

As Lancashire's statutory highway authority, the County Council endorses the LUF active travel infrastructure. These interventions will build upon and support projects delivered by the County Council and will deliver an active travel network that better serves and connects communities, businesses, education, transport, and cultural/leisure assets.

As such, Lancashire County Council has allocated £1m match funding from its Lancashire Levelling Up Investment Fund, subject to approval of a final business case, towards the project. The Lancashire Levelling Up Investment Fund is a newly identified county council

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resource to assist in the delivery of major development projects and infrastructure schemes in support of the Levelling Up agenda.

If the bid is successful Lancashire County Council will continue to work closely with Preston City Council to support the scheme, continuing the ongoing support that we have provided to date.

I wish you all the very best with your submission which I am aware already has wide stakeholder and MP support, which is evidence of the benefits this project will bring to communities across Lancashire.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



County Councillor Aidy Riggott
Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Growth