



Andrew Jones MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport

CABINET MEMBER

Cllr John Furey

4th August 2015

Dear Minister,

ROADS FUND: INVESTING IN SURREY'S ROADS TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

I welcome the Government's announcement in the Summer Budget of the new Roads Fund, but am disappointed that it will be restricted to the motorways and A roads maintained by Highways England.

Surrey's roads are some of the busiest outside London, keeping the local economy moving and supporting the UK recovery: Surrey GVA adds £35 billion to the national economy. Global companies locate in Surrey because of our connectivity and Surrey residents and businesses depend on our roads for their daily lives. It is vital that we are able to invest in Surrey's roads to provide an improved and safer network for residents and to support local jobs and business growth.

We have already recognised the importance of this by embarking on a five year £100 million programme to renew 300 miles of roads, but Government funding for our roads continues to decline - by around £1 million annually. So far we have been able to manage this through savings and efficiencies, but this is no longer sustainable and risks damaging our continued economic growth.

Surrey drivers contribute more than £100 million in Vehicle Excise Duty to the Exchequer every year, but we only receive around £20 million to invest in our roads. The Government should take this opportunity to ensure the Roads Fund provides fairer funding for Surrey's roads. I would welcome the opportunity of meeting you to discuss this.

I am copying this to Surrey's MPs.

Yours sincerely

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Flooding