

Freepost (BS6529)  
South Bristol Link Consultation  
(TP/WH)  
Bristol  
BS1 5BR

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Re: Linking Hartcliffe with the Long Ashton Bypass**

GWE Business West Ltd is a leading membership and economic development organisation delivering an extensive range of services to businesses. As a powerful voice for business we play a major role in shaping and supporting economic growth and success. We represent over 2,000 businesses in the West of England and are the principle business organisation for the sub region. In addition to providing a wide range of business services, advice and support to its members, GWE Business West supports the economic and social prosperity of the West of England.

Improving transport and accessibility across the West of England has been a top priority for us and many of our members for some time now and we are keen to see new schemes come forward to achieve this aim. With extensive growth proposed for the West of England and South West Bristol in particular, these improvements become ever more necessary, not just to address current issues but also to ensure new growth areas are served by good road infrastructure and public transport from the start. Whilst the South Bristol link scheme will not solve all the problems associated with the South Bristol growth agenda, it is certainly a good starting point, particularly when combined with proposed BRT routes connecting both Ashton Vale and Hengrove with Temple Meads and the North Fringe respectively.

The business community has been waiting for a South Bristol Link Road to be delivered for years with many doubting it will ever happen. To restore confidence it is essential that the current preferred option is delivered in some shape or form, sooner rather than later— the most common comments about the scheme from our members are “let’s just get on with it” and “when is it actually going to happen”.

The current proposed scheme combining a single carriageway road, rapid transit route and a cycle and pedestrian corridor is something we fully support as a practical, flexible and realistic option, however it is also important that the scheme is seen with the broader framework of all the proposed transport schemes and within the overall context of the growth agenda. Further, in considering the provision of future growth in South Bristol, it is important at this early stage for the

Leigh Court Business Centre Abbots Leigh Bristol BS8 3RA  
T 01275 373 373 F 01275 370 706 E [info@gwebusinesswest.co.uk](mailto:info@gwebusinesswest.co.uk)  
[www.gwebusinesswest.co.uk](http://www.gwebusinesswest.co.uk)



link scheme to have regard for the reservation of land for any future addition to the route.

We recognise and consistently promote the benefits the link provides in terms of improving access to the airport and reducing pressure on existing congestion points, however further to current proposals we feel these objectives could be better served through provision of grade separated junctions where the proposed link meets the A38 and A370. The inclusion of grade separated junctions at these locations would ease the flow of congested peak hour traffic, rather than compounding the current issue.

To re-iterate, GWE Business West welcomes the preferred South Bristol link option and the progress being made, as a project vital to the future economic development of South Bristol. Whilst we hold some reservations over the detail of the scheme we simply urge that the momentum is maintained so the detailed technical and planning work can continue and a scheme can be delivered on the ground.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Savage'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

John Savage  
Managing Director  
GWE Business West