Dear Mr Hanson

Ref: Opportunity Funding for Innovation: Opening Local Authority Transport Data

As the Southend-on-Sea Borough Cabinet Member for Infrastructure (a portfolio which includes highways, parking and transport related matters) and as lead Member for the delivery of the local Access, Transport & Parking Strategy, I welcome the opportunity to endorse this bid.

Southend, like the other members of Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) - the association of 7 local authorities which combined make up the South Essex Corridor - is challenged by traffic flow, parking and air quality related issues.

Given the South Essex Corridor is expected to accommodate 90,000 new homes and 70,000 new jobs by 2036, with the pending expansion of Southend airport and the freight managed through the 3 major ports in Thurrock offering significant international opportunities, there is limited space and the need for a new approaches is clear.

At the Western end of ASELA, the project will focus on links with Highways England’s real-time monitoring of the M25, through Thurrock the project will link UTMC for key freight and export corridors, while in Southend and Rochford UTC and UTMC data essential for the seamless movement of people and goods supporting leisure, tourism, international travel and the emerging digital and creative cluster will be opened. The potential to integrate, utilise and open data from multiple parking systems will also be investigated.

The opening up of real-time management and open data could enable existing capacity to be optimised and a range of traffic and mode management strategies to be employed.

I therefore offer my personal support and that of the Members of the corridor for this bid.
Yours faithfully

Signature redacted

Councillor Andrew Moring
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and
Chair of the Access, Parking and Transport Strategy Working Group

T: 01702 212886
E: clrmoring@southend gov uk