

Dear Sir/Madam,

Brighton & Hove City Council bid to the Structures Fund – A259 Kings Road Arch Strengthening

I am writing to express Transport for the South East's (TfSE) support for Brighton & Hove City Council's submission to the Structures Fund to secure funding for Phases 6 and 7 of the A259 Kings Road Arches Bridge Strengthening Works.

Transport for the South East (TfSE) is the Sub-national Transport Body for the South East of England, bringing together local transport authorities, district and borough councils, business representatives and national delivery partners to provide a unified voice on strategic transport investment across the region. TfSE has a vision-led [Transport Strategy](#) in place to influence government decisions about where, when and how to invest in our region to 2050. The strategy sets out five missions to deliver our vision: Strategic Connectivity, Resilience, Inclusion and Integration, Decarbonisation and Sustainable Growth. Our [Strategic Investment Plan](#) (SIP) provides a framework for delivering our Transport Strategy, setting out transport infrastructure and policy interventions needed across the region over the coming decades.

The proposed Kings Road Arches strengthening works align particularly strongly with TfSE's Resilience mission, while also supporting Strategic Connectivity, Inclusion and Integration, Decarbonisation and Sustainable Growth. The scheme is identified within TfSE's Strategic Investment Plan as intervention CR01, recognising its importance to the resilience and operation of the Sussex Coast corridor and the wider regional transport network. The route also forms part of the Major Road Network (MRN) and TfSE has played a key role in advising Government on investment priorities across the MRN, recognising the importance of these routes in supporting strategic connectivity, economic growth and network resilience.

The A259 Kings Road is a critical east-west transport corridor along Brighton seafront, carrying significant volumes of motor traffic, pedestrians and cyclists while providing access to the city centre, seafront attractions, businesses, public transport connections and wider coastal communities. The Victorian arches supporting the route form a critical transport asset whose continued operation is fundamental to the resilience and reliability of the wider transport network.

The strengthening works form part of a long-term programme to maintain and improve the structural integrity of the arches. Continued investment is essential to reducing the risk of future deterioration, restrictions and

disruption on this strategically important route. The scheme will help maintain connectivity for residents, businesses and visitors, support public transport and active travel movements, and safeguard access to one of the South East's most important economic, tourism and cultural destinations.

The scheme has additional strategic significance as it builds upon previous investment already secured for earlier phases of the Kings Road Arches strengthening programme. The Department for Transport's recent approval of MRN funding for Phases 4 and 5, supported by earlier work involving TfSE, demonstrates the recognised importance of this asset and the wider programme. Funding for Phases 6 and 7 would help maximise the value of that investment, ensuring the benefits of earlier phases are protected and enabling the continued delivery of a coordinated long-term approach to maintaining this critical structure.

The scheme contributes to the resilience of the wider A259 corridor. As part of the Major Road Network and the principal east-west route along much of the South Coast, maintaining the integrity of key assets such as the Kings Road Arches helps ensure that the benefits of investment are realised not only at individual locations but across the corridor as a whole.

The scheme also complements wider transport investment along the corridor, including the recently completed Valley Gardens programme, which has improved conditions for public transport, walking and cycling within Brighton city centre. Maintaining the resilience and reliability of the Kings Road corridor will help ensure these wider investments continue to deliver their intended benefits and support an integrated transport network across the city.

TfSE's Transport Strategy recognises the importance of a transport network that can manage, absorb and recover from disruption, while highlighting that a resilient, well-maintained network reduces long-term costs for both users and the public sector. Given the scheme's identification within TfSE's Strategic Investment Plan as intervention CR01, its location on the Major Road Network, and its importance to regional connectivity, resilience and economic activity, TfSE considers this project to represent a strong case for investment through the Structures Fund.

TfSE therefore supports Brighton & Hove City Council's application to the Structures Fund and looks forward to a positive funding decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line.

Rupert Clubb
Chief Officer, Transport for the South East

