

James Duddridge MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Jesse Norman MP

Great Minster House 33 Horseferry Road London SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000

E-Mail: jesse.norman@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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## Dear Colleague

I am delighted to inform you that following the success of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in bidding for funding from the Department's National Productivity Investment Fund for the Town-centre Redevelopment Improvement Project (TRIP), the Department will award £1.75 million to that authority for the project named above.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is one of a number of local highway authorities in England, outside London, which have been successful in bidding for funding. In total the funding will enable projects worth more than £527 million to go ahead, with £345.3 million of the Department's funding.

The National Productivity Investment Fund aims to ease congestion and provide upgrades on important national, regional or local routes to help unlock economic and job opportunities or enable the delivery of vital new housing developments. There is £244 million of funding for 76 projects, including the Town-centre Redevelopment Improvement Project (TRIP) with DfT funding of £1.75 million towards the cost of £2.5 million.

I hope that the Department's funding will bring about much needed improvements to the local transport infrastructure for the benefit of your constituents.

Yours

**JESSE NORMAN**