

Minuted response of the Chair of BHCC Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee (27 June 2017)

"Thank you for your petition to this committee on behalf of SAFE and the people who have signed it. As you know, we received the petition and debated it at our Full Council meeting in April, and the summary of that debate can be found in today's agenda.

In that debate, I did refer to the transport and planning studies that have already been done, and the ongoing, local monitoring and reporting of air quality within the area that you are concerned about.

To summarise for the members of the public attending today's meeting:-

- those studies have not concluded that significant, new transport infrastructure is required to address future, planned growth; and
- the monitoring is showing improvements in air quality in Rottingdean High Street and we have also approved funding for a local scheme to manage traffic flows there, through dialogue with the Parish Council and local councillors.

I also outlined the significant success of the existing priority lanes on the A259 in terms of increased bus passenger numbers and service frequencies that are in use, and would add that they also benefit other public transport users such as taxi and coach passengers.

In my view, therefore, there appears to be sufficient ongoing research and results involving all these councils to indicate what each council needs to know to be able to plan in a strategic and cross-border manner, co-operating at both a Strategic Planning level and with respect to Transport Planning and this information is regularly added to. This information is used when considering any changes or improvements to the sub-regional transport infrastructure such as the A259. This council's Strategic Transport Assessment was produced to support our City Plan Part 1 and the technical modelling used was validated using nationally recognised and recommended techniques.

The data collected and put through the modelling process for the STA also included traffic growth factors to 2030 and allowed for local growth, again using nationally recognised estimating methods.

An examination in public was held on the City Plan and its supporting documentation. The Planning Inspector concluded that it was sound.

When preparing their own Local Plans, our neighbouring council's would have undertaken a similar process, so this information has been gathered

I am aware that your petition has been received by our neighbouring councils to the east and that the progress of the petition is that:-

- The District Council will discuss it either at a full council meeting or an appropriate committee; and
- The County Council may be preparing a response for its next Lead Member Meeting in the Autumn.

Therefore, at this stage, we are not yet aware of the views or discussions that our neighbouring councils may have. However, I am sure that your petition will have raised a greater awareness of these issues and I know that, for example, the main local bus company is looking at the possibility of increased services connecting with the A259 that will help to relieve the pressure in that area".