



ALYN SMITH MP
Member of the Westminster Parliament
Stirling Constituency



Carol Beattie
Chief Executive
Stirling Council

cc. Scott Farmer, Leader of Stirling Council

Sent by email.

2 March 2021

Dear Chief Executive,

Viewforth Link Road

Thank you for your previous correspondence on this important local issue as I know it has been a matter of much discussion between Council officials and Councillors.

Having received and reviewed the material provided by you and elected Councillors around the purpose of building a new link road to connect St Ninians Road with the Braehead area, I write to suggest that this project be shelved.

While I am generally supportive of the principles and aims around the road I feel we should re-examine it with a view to how the world post-covid will look. I think a number of the predictions made in deciding to build it have altered in recent months. This is of course true of other capital expenditure projects too and I think it right we revisit everything we can. With every pound in the council's budget a prisoner I cannot help but think that there are other, greener, more effective economic stimuli that we could be spending the money upon than the Viewforth Link Road.

It is also the case that more than a decade of UK government austerity has meant that Stirling Council was already in a challenging financial position, and I am aware that there are a number of exciting projects that would require capital spending from the Council which I feel merit being made a priority over the Link Road.

I will take up this conversation with the Councillors directly, but felt I should make you aware of my view. Cancelling a project should not mean that it must never be discussed again, and I am certainly open to such discussion in consultation with local communities, however I believe that shelving the road would, at this time, be welcomed by local people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alyn Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alyn Smith MP
Member of the Westminster Parliament Stirling Constituency