



# Leicestershire County Council is asking the Government for £50m - here's why

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The authority is preparing a bid for money from a Government fund

Plans to secure £50 million to help fund new homes, create job opportunities and reduce journey times in Leicestershire have been revealed by the county council.

Cabinet members will be asked later this month to clear the way for the council to bid for the Government money.

If approved, two bids will be submitted by the March 1 deadline set by the department to which the application will be made, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The [authority](#) would ask for an amount in the region of £40m to support the development of new housing at junction two of the M69, as well as development in an area around the proposed [M1 junction 20a south of Whetstone](#).

The bid would also focus on providing the transport infrastructure to support new housing in Lutterworth.

A second bid, to develop the southern section of the [Melton Mowbray Distributor Road \(MMDR\)](#), would be in the region of £10 million. Earlier this year, the Department for Transport awarded nearly £50 million funding towards a £63 million scheme to develop the northern and eastern sections of the relief road to the south of the town.

Members of the county council scrutiny committee discussed the plans for the bids at a recent meeting and were asked to say whether they backed it.

Councillor David Bill, Liberal Democrat, said at the meeting that he did not agree with the proposal.

He said: "I don't see how I can vote for something without knowing exactly what I'm voting for.

"We should be developing in a way that is in the interest of the people who live here."

He also raised concerns about the maps included in the report.

Coun Bill said: "If we are putting in for such a serious change to where we live, then I would appreciate more than a postage stamp sized map to base my decision on.

"I need to know more before putting my hand up.

"We should not be issuing maps to the government that we can't even see or read ourselves."

However, council officers and other members of the committee put reassurances on record that the information in the agenda packs put together for the meeting were indicative and did not constitute a planned proposal.

Janna Walker, principal transport planner, said: “This isn’t us saying this is what we want to do, it’s about staying in the game.

“These bids are there to show Homes England (the government's national housing and regeneration agency for England) that there are real people with real money with an interest in developing these schemes.

“These are ideas floating around in the market, and part of the money is to determine where the road would go.”



Nick Rushton

Addressing Coun Bill’s concerns, Councillor Nick Rushton, Conservative, said: “This still has to go through planning processes. If it doesn’t get approved, it doesn’t get built.

“It’s in everyone’s interest to try and get this money.”

He added: “We’ve got a good track record of securing funding to support the growth of the county and we hope that stands us in good stead.

“The bids give us the opportunity to put the funding for transport infrastructure in place before the usual planning process is undertaken, and that’s a better scenario for the people who live in those areas as it can allay their concerns about pressure on local roads.”

Cabinet will consider a report at the meeting on Tuesday, December 18.