



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Alan Rhodes  
Leader  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
NG2 7QP

Our ref: BR15791/AP

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

Dear Cllr Rhodes

Thank you for meeting me last week to discuss compensation for small shops and businesses facing financial loss as a direct result of the tram works in my constituency.

I am in the process of writing another letter to all the businesses affected by the tram works and I am sure you will agree that it is of utmost importance that the information and advice I give them is accurate. This includes detail of the financial help that is available as well as the criteria to be applied by the County Council.

At our meeting, you and your officials were quite clear that the County Council does not have a 'pot' of money set aside to compensate businesses and that any compensation would have to be found from existing budgets. You made the point that it would be difficult for the County Council to pay any significant amount of compensation given reduced funding from the national government.

This was certainly not my understanding nor that of Borough and County Councillors of all political parties representing the wards of Beeston, Chilwell and Toton within my constituency. Indeed on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, Cllr Steve Barber, a longstanding advocate of the tram, wrote on the Bramcote Today website: "the money was put in place; £2.5m budgeted which does show a great deal of forward thinking. Only a fraction of that has been paid out, the rest sits in Council coffers."

Documents I have seen make it clear how Cllrs Barber, Carr, Jackson and Doddy have all come to similar conclusions. Reports from meetings dated 24th September 2009 and 27th January 2011 suggest that both the City and County Councils agreed to make a significant amount of money available to compensate businesses for 3 years during and after the completion of the tram works. I enclose copies of those reports.

Section 30 of the 2009 document includes the line, "the County Council... approved a Financial Assistance package for the Chilwell High Road traders of £850,000 per annum for up to 3 years [£2.5 million]", and section 20 states that the County Council will save an estimated £18.5 million from withdrawing from the entire NET Phase Two scheme.

*Anna Soubry, Member of Parliament for Broxtowe*  
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In section's 7.13 and 7.14 of the 2011 report, in recognition of the likelihood that the tram works would cause "severe disruption" to local businesses, the County Council agreed "to fund 50% of the cost" of assisting businesses. Although this does not refer specifically to the £2.5 million figure mentioned in the 2009 report, section 13.5 then goes on to say that the likely savings as a result of withdrawing from Phase 2 "will reduce to £17.25 million". This accounts for £1.25 million set aside as 50% of the £2.5 million figure which was agreed upon in 2007 as compensation for businesses.

I have copied Cllr Jon Collins into this letter and will write to him separately. We need to determine what monies are available, what the criteria are for compensation claims, what period of time is covered by the extended FAP so I can advise shops and traders accordingly.

I believe it is imperative we work together to ensure the adverse effects of the tram works are fairly mitigated and small shops and traders in Beeston, Chilwell and Toton remain in business to take full advantage of the benefits they have been promised that the tram extension will bring.

I look forward to your response.



**Anna Soubry MP**

Enc. County Council NET Report, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009;  
County Council NET Report, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Cc. Cllr Jon Collins.