

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

## Department for Place

Director of Digital Futures: Nick Corrigan

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🌐 [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk)

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Will Britain  
Highways & Transport Management Services,  
Community and Environmental Services  
Department  
Blackpool Council  
Number One Bickerstaffe Square  
Talbot Road, Blackpool. FY1 3AH

Our ref:  
Your ref:  
Date: 12 February 2018  
Telephone: 01702 215000  
Email: [council@southend.gov.uk](mailto:council@southend.gov.uk)

Email: [will.britain@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:will.britain@blackpool.gov.uk)

Dear Will,

### **DfT - Funding for Innovation: Connected Vehicle Data - Letter of Support for Digital Inspection System**

Southend on Sea Borough Council is pleased to support the innovation funding application to the Department for Transport, led by Blackpool Council. We believe that collaboration in this type of project is a very effective use of resources and valuable for benchmarking, learning and innovation across Local Authorities to address common challenges in highway maintenance and the deployment of advances in technology.

The Council is very interested in procuring the benefits of this project through the Blackpool RAMS Framework, which is available to us, thereby maximising the benefits and saving on procuring these services.

An innovative digital inspection system will reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of our current safety inspection regime. By making use of connected cameras and processing we can utilise all Council and contractor vehicles, including cycles and motorbikes, to improve operational delivery, especially in terms of vehicle routing and scheduling.

This includes better use of Council and contractor resources, fewer claims, and links well with the customer facing aspects of the service, especially quicker and more effective pothole repairs.

This fits extremely well with our Asset Management Plan implementation and the development of an extensive database and deterioration modelling. All designed to improve service efficiency and value for money.

Integration of digital imaging, data management and common sharing fits well with the wider Smart City work that is underway in Southend linking to traffic control systems, roadworks, parking and public transport to provide an integrated city-wide platform.

As a Tier 2 Authority we are pleased to be able to commit £5,000 to the project funding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. G. Corrigan', written over a large, faint circular watermark or stamp.

**Nick Corrigan**  
Director of Digital Futures