

FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

Pledge 22 – Back the campaign for upgrades to the A38

What we said we would do: We will back the campaign for upgrades to the A38 within Plymouth and support the long-term aspiration for the M5 to be extended to Plymouth. As part of this, we want to see improved noise reduction measures adopted where the A38 Parkway is close to residential areas.

What we wanted to achieve: The A38 is an important lifeline for Plymouth and in its current state it just cannot cope with forecast demand. The A38 from Exeter to Bodmin received no funding for enhancements from Road Investment Strategy One (RIS1; 2015 to 2020). Improving and modernising the A38 puts safety first by reducing the frequency and severity of accidents; providing better journeys through reduced journey times; increasing reliability; strengthening resilience; and moving towards motorway standard. This would support economic growth with improvements, generating £885 million of productivity growth and inward investment. A number of Noise Important Areas (NIAs) have been identified along sections of the A38 through Plymouth and we seek the introduction of noise reduction measures.

What we have done: The Council has been engaging, along with our neighbouring highways authorities in the South West, with the Secretaries of State since 2018. It is vital for local authorities and politicians alike to get behind the campaign to secure investment in the A38. In 2018, we officially launched the A38 Case for Action in Westminster with the then Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling. The Case for Action is a joint study, commissioned by Cornwall Council with contributory funding from Plymouth City Council. In addition, Plymouth City Council:

- is pro-actively engaging with the Department for Transport (DfT) and Highways England to raise the profile of the A38;
- has undertaken an A38 performance study for Plymouth to highlight problem areas;
- is undertaking an A38 Economic Impact Assessment;
- is raising the A38 profile by engaging with MPs, local councillors, councils, businesses, developers, haulers, industry, etc.; and
- has submitted our Road Investment Strategy Two (RIS2) consultation response.

In October, Councillor Coker wrote to the Secretary of State, Grant Shapps, about the need to reduce exposure to noise amongst residential areas adjacent to the A38 in Plymouth. In his reply, the Secretary of State, while listing the eight resurfacing schemes that Highways England has undertaken on the A38 since 2015, stated that there are no further resurfacing schemes in the current capital forward programme covering the NIAs and Highways England, as the relevant highway authority, continues to monitor the situation.

What's next: The new government will need to publish its RIS2, which will shape all investment decisions on the Strategic Road Network between 2020 and 2025. Plymouth City Council, as one of the five local authorities making up the Peninsula Transport Shadow Sub-National Transport Body, will work with the DfT to shape strategic transport priorities, including the A38 and M5, as it prepares a comprehensive future transport strategy for the region identifying where investment is needed.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/delegation-meets-secretary-state-transport-a38/>

