

Commerce Cornwall – LEP column, June 2017

By Sandra Rothwell

In just a few weeks' time the A30 between Temple and Higher Carblake on Bodmin Moor will fully open following a two-year £60m project to upgrade the 4.5km stretch to a dual carriageway.

The Cornwall Council project will transform road access and put an end to hours of delays and miles of traffic jams caused by up to 36,000 vehicles a day during peak season using a road originally build for just a third of that number.

The impact should not be underestimated. When the Federation of Small Business (FSB) asked its Cornwall members what their number one road improvement would be, 69% said dualling the A30, with 38% saying they used that particular stretch at least once a month.

Poor infrastructure impacts significantly on productivity so one of the LEP's priorities is improving our connectivity, reducing the time and cost of trips. We lobbied hard for the Temple improvements and Cornwall Council showed Government it could be built at almost half the cost of initial estimates if delivered locally.

The completion of Temple will bring into sharp focus the need to dual the 12.5km stretch between Chiverton and Carland Cross, which the FSB says is used by 41% of local businesses at least monthly. The good news is that £8m of EU funding from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth Programme is being used to develop the scheme, with a view to it opening in 2022/23.

These projects are part of a jigsaw of strategic investments to transform Cornwall's road and transport network. Elsewhere we are seeing rapid progress on schemes in Bodmin, Truro, Carkeel near Saltash, Treluswell near Penryn and at Tolgus near Redruth.

Each one is aimed at addressing specific traffic issues and unlocking economic growth potential. The LEP is investing over £27m in these projects through our Growth Deals from Government.

Around £21m of LEP Growth Deal funding is also supporting a massive £400m investment in Cornwall's rail network, and this week sees one of GWR's new Class 802 Hitachi trains travelling through Cornwall for the first time as part of a test programme.

Overall we will see increased frequency, more seats and quicker journeys, which is good news for passengers and good news for our economy.

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