

## **£7 million funding boost for Exeter - building a bridge for the future**

From Michaila Hill, Exeter 382535, March 27,2009

Devon County Council has secured £5.5m from the government to build a cycling and walking bridge over the M5 near junction 29, and a further £1.5m for improvements at M5 Junction 30.

The funding is from the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) which Central Government has established to support accelerated delivery of employment and housing in those areas such as Exeter which have been designated as Growth Points.

Detailed planning and design work will begin on the bridge project immediately, and construction is planned to start in early summer 2010.

The bridge will form an important new link across the M5 enabling more cycling and walking journeys between existing and planned employment and residential areas. It complements the plans that are being developed for the Exeter Science Park, which have recently been the subject of public consultation, and also the major highway improvement scheme at M5 Junction 29, by encouraging sustainable modes of travel.

The scheme at M5 Junction 30 will improve traffic flows through the junction reducing delays and improving road safety. The works will also provide better facilities for cyclists, given them a safe route through Junction 30, which will be continued out to Clyst St Mary and Westpoint. This will complete the enhancement which was started last year. Site work on the scheme will start in summer 2009 with works around the junction being broken down into smaller packages to minimise disruption to traffic using the Sandygate Junction roundabout.

[Councillor Humphrey Temperley](#), Devon County Council Executive Member for Economy said: "This new bridge will provide a new route over the M5 for walkers and cyclists and I am extremely pleased our bid has been accepted for CIF funding. The bridge is also part of a wider scheme to provide a 'green' corridor from Exeter out towards Cranbrook and the other New Growth Point developments."

Councillor Ray Franklin Deputy Leader, East Devon District Council said "As we look further into the future with the requirements of delivering increased housing both in Exeter and East Devon these improvements will be a necessary step to connect east and west of the M5 to the Science Park and other employment sites. The Council felt this scheme was ideal for this funding because of the major growth taking place in Exeter; significant house building (24,000 new

dwellings by 2026) as well as the development of major business and employment centres."

Councillor Adrian Fullam, Leader of Exeter City Council said "I am delighted that Government is actively supporting these important transport improvements, which will link the city of Exeter with the new housing and employment planned for the east of the city. This is a demonstration of confidence in the effective partnership working between the County Council, City Council and East Devon."

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **New Growth Points**

Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point is a partnership commitment between Devon County Council, Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council, The South West Regional Development Agency and the Government to deliver sustainable economic growth.

CIF funding was set up for projects that support house building, sustainable transport and reduce congestion. This investment into the infrastructure for Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point is in addition to £8 million already allocated from the Regional Infrastructure fund (RIF), £10 million from the New Growth Point Fund, £19 million for the Science Park and an anticipated £24 million from the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA).

Exeter and East Devon was recognised by the Government as a New Growth Point (NGP) in 2006. Further information about New Growth Points and Partnership for Growth with the Government, can be found at:

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/newgrowthpoints](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/newgrowthpoints)