

Norman Baker MP
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

14th June 2011

Dear Norman,

Thank you for your letter of 7th June outlining your response to the concerns and recommendations on streetworks set out in my letter of 13 April.

I welcome the move to introduce regulations on lane rental and to remove the requirement for local authority permit schemes in England to be approved by the Secretary of State. We look forward to seeing the details of the legislative proposals in the summer.

However, I am disappointed that you have not been able to look on the other recommendations outlined in my letter more favourably. The experience of local authorities in operating within the existing legislation points to the ineffectiveness of the current framework and the imbalance of power in the relationship between local authorities and utility companies. This is an important issue, particularly when one considers the long term economic impact of substandard highway reinstatement. We will continue to press for greater powers for local authorities in this area.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Peter Box
Chairman, LG Group Economy and Transport Programme Board