Dear Parish or Town Clerk,

Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Councils and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership have commissioned MDS Transmodal, a specialist freight transport consultancy, to develop a freight strategy for the Marches. Acknowledging the changes in lifestyles, particularly with regard to deliveries of online shopping in rural areas, we would like to know your views on freight transport in your area. Freight transport in this context means the carriage of goods between an origin and a destination by freight vehicles for commercial reasons; this includes journeys by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and many journeys made by ‘white vans’ and farm vehicles.

Alongside a separate consultation with businesses located in the Marches, we would like to understand the priorities of, and the key issues that affect, the parishes and towns in relation to freight activity. We would also like to obtain the views of parish and town councils on potential measures that could be effective in addressing these issues.

The consultants are therefore conducting an online survey of the parish and town councils on our behalf and I would be very grateful if you would complete the survey via the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/DhfUBK2rzfYVGPJO2>

The deadline for completion of the survey, which must be completed online, is **30 January 2017.**

The results of the survey will only be published in an aggregated form and will be used only to inform the development of the strategy.

I have attached the questionnaire so that you can discuss your responses to the survey with colleagues in advance of completing it online.

Yours faithfully,



Matt Johnson

Strategic Transport and Contracts Manager – Shropshire Council;