

29 September 2006

John Healey MP  
Financial Secretary  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear John

### **Regional Input to Comprehensive Spending Review 2007**

We are pleased to enclose, on behalf of the West Midlands, input to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The West Midlands is a region full of ambition and which has proved that it has the right relationships and abilities in place to succeed. We believe that by the effective way in which we have utilised our partnerships we have already made a significant difference to the performance of the regional economy. We are, however, with our partners, determined to do more, and we see this submission as a way to open the dialogue between Government and ourselves about how the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review could assist the West Midlands to accelerate its economic performance for the benefit of the region and, of course, the United Kingdom as a whole. The submission outlines the measures we recommend to achieve this.

There are two key factors to which we would draw your attention.

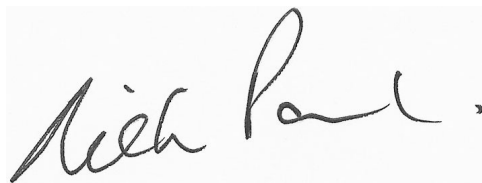
First, this is a region with massive potential for growth in productivity, with a young and ethnically diverse population who, given the right level of investment from Government will be a huge economic asset. We are determined to provide the right climate for the population in the region to each achieve their full potential through the development of a thriving and harmonious society, and we detail how Government could help significantly by recognising the size of the legacy that this region is turning around and assisting us to do that.

Secondly, we are situated at the heart of England, with all major transport routes within the country and to Europe passing through the region; and we have both land and an ambition for growth; meaning that we are ideally placed as a location for industrial investment. Government could help significantly in providing the resource to maximise this potential.

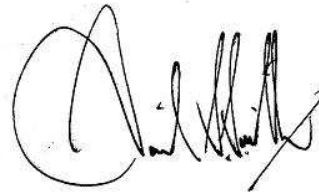
Our submission is structured around the Treasury's drivers of productivity, and employment. It builds upon our (January 2006) advice to Government on Regional Funding Allocations and makes use of the evidence being assembled for the region's current reviews of both the West Midlands Economic Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy. It has been endorsed by the region's 'Forward Planning Executive', chaired by David Smith, and comprised of senior representatives of the Regional Assembly, Advantage West Midlands, the Transport Partnership, the Housing Board, the Regional Learning and Skills Council, English Partnerships, and the Government. It reflects a consensus view.

We would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss our proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nick Paul'.

**Nick Paul**  
**Chairman**  
**Advantage West Midlands**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cllr David Smith'.

**Cllr David Smith**  
**Chairman**  
**West Midlands Regional Assembly**