

31 January 2006

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor

The West Midlands Advice to Government On The Regional Funding Allocations

This Advice has been prepared by the Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands, supported by the Government Office. It draws on extensive consultations which the three organisations have had with regional stakeholders, and through Assembly Partnerships.

We are confident that you will find our Advice on Regional Funding Allocations coherent, well argued and capable of being implemented with immediate effect. It demonstrates that the West Midlands has a clear, aligned and agreed set of strategic priorities and strong partnership arrangements. We can take difficult decisions, properly sequenced. We are a region that is ambitious, open to new ideas/technologies, and working co-operatively.

However, it remains clear to regional agencies and stakeholders that the resource package offered in Regional Funding Allocations whilst very welcome is insufficient on its own to achieve our goals. We therefore ask that Government consider that other funding streams such as those for skills and rail, be incorporated and integrated into the approach we set out in RFA to allow the West Midlands to effectively deliver our regional and national priorities.

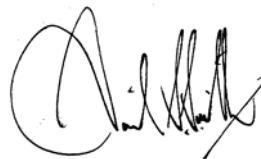
The programme we have assembled is ready for implementation and we ask that approval be given to the various outstanding projects as soon as possible, especially those transport schemes identified for 2006-07 starts.

Finally we would like to invite Ministers to meet with us to discuss our plans at the earliest opportunity. We are copying this letter to Rt Hon John Prescott MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, Secretary of State for Transport.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Nick Paul in black ink.

Nick Paul
Chairman
Advantage West Midlands

Handwritten signature of Councillor David S Smith in black ink.

Councillor David S Smith
Chairman
West Midlands Regional Assembly