



HM TREASURY

**dti**

Department for  
**Transport**



Office of the  
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Nick Paul  
Chair, Advantage West Midlands  
Cllr David Smith  
Chair, West Midlands Regional Assembly

22 February 2006

Dear Mr Paul and Cllr Smith

## **REGIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

Thank you for submitting advice for the West Midlands region in response to the Regional Funding Allocations (RFA) exercise.

We are grateful to you and your regional partners for the considerable time and effort that you have invested in producing the advice. It is encouraging to learn that your region has benefited already from the process of bringing together stakeholders to agree strategic priorities. This in itself should help regional partners better align their strategies in a coherent vision for the region and provide an enhanced input into Government policy development and public spending decisions that affect the regions.

The Government is keen to ensure that your advice forms the basis of further constructive dialogue with central Government. Given that the advice is substantial it will require careful reflection and discussion, but we will aim to send a fully considered response as soon as possible. In the mean time, we encourage you to continue close dialogue with each other and with the lead officials on regional funding allocations in the four departments. We will also set out in due course how the regional funding allocations will be further utilised and developed in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review and thereafter.

We are aware that there is particular interest in the programme of transport schemes which you have developed, especially given that the Department for Transport has

adjusted its local authority major schemes decision-making timetable to take account of the regional funding allocations advice. Again there are substantive issues for consideration, but Ministers will reach decisions as soon as possible.

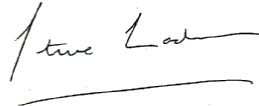
This letter is copied to Sheila Healy, acting Regional Director Government Office for the West Midlands.




**JOHN HEALEY**



**ALUN MICHAEL**



**STEPHEN LADYMAN**



**YVETTE COOPER**