

APPENDIX C1

Mr Kieran Preston
Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport
Executive
Wellington House, Wellington Street
Leeds, LS1 2DE

Our Ref: M4700/54/3/03
Your Ref:
Date: 18 December 2006

Margaret Jackson
Director, Economy & Strategy
Government Office for Yorkshire & The Humber
25 Queen Street
Leeds
LS1 2TW
Enquiries: 0113 280 0600

Direct Line: 0113 233 8200
Fax: 0113 233 8306
Email: margaret.jackson@goyh.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Kieran

LOCAL TRANSPORT CAPITAL SETTLEMENT 2007/08

This letter summarises the 2007/08 local transport capital settlement for your Local Transport Plan area. It sets out the related transport capital allocations for 2007/08 and beyond - including for maintenance and the integrated transport (small schemes) block.

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

This is the first settlement since local authorities reviewed the delivery of their first five year plans and produced the final versions of the 82 second five year Local Transport plans, which cover England outside London.

Delivery of the Previous Plans

The Delivery Reports covering the achievements of the first Local Transport Plans highlight a substantial and sustained volume of work across the country to improve transport services by tackling local priorities. The work has also contributed to addressing some key priorities shared by central and local government. There has been sustained progress, for example, in reducing local road casualties and the condition of many local road networks is improving. Authorities have made substantial investments to manage traffic more effectively and reduce its adverse impacts on residents, town centres and the environment more generally. In many areas, better infrastructure for buses, cyclists and pedestrians has been put in place and transport is making a contribution to more sustainable development and economic growth.

Some highlights are included in a report 'Delivering Better Local Transport: Key Achievements and Good Practice from the First Round of Local Transport Plans', produced for the Department for Transport. This can be viewed at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_localtrans/documents/divisionhomepage/032393.hcsp

I encourage you to continue to work together with other authorities in your region and beyond to share good practice, learn from each other and build your capacity to deliver. We are also keen to help support you in continuing to improve the delivery of your plans and will be in touch to arrange a meeting to take this forward early in the New Year.

Seventeen authorities were identified as transport centres of excellence in 2005. Many of these have demonstrated excellent delivery across the whole plan period in this year's reporting. Eight other authorities have also demonstrated excellent delivery and are being invited to join the transport centres of excellence programme to build on their good practice.

Second Local Transport Plans

All this creates a solid foundation for further improvements during the second plan period. The new plans provide evidence of much good local transport planning which, supported by the funding being allocated and the experience and skills which authorities have accumulated, enhance the prospects for delivering further improvement over the next four years.

A common theme of the new plans is that partnership and behavioural change are needed to achieve many Local Transport Plan objectives. It is therefore vital that local communities and stakeholders continue to be engaged strongly in the delivery of the second Local Transport Plans. The Local Transport Plan system has now been in place for seven years and the Government is substantially reducing the level of reporting in line with the principles of the recent Local Government White Paper. The challenge now is to deliver improvements that address the transport plan priorities and represent good value for the resources you have to invest.

To this end, £1,254m (£35m more than last year) is being allocated to local authorities for 2007/08 to deliver integrated transport improvements and invest in highways capital maintenance according to their local policies and priorities.

Integrated transport allocations (which are indicative because they are subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review) are also being made for the period 2008/09 to 2010/11. They provide increased certainty and stability for local authorities to plan ahead. These indicative allocations total £1,769m over three years and involve year on year increases nationally.

This announcement builds on the funding allocated last year. Parts of the allocations for 2007/08 have already been included in the revenue support grant settlement as supported capital expenditure (resource) - SCE (R). The rest of the funding will be provided through specific grants under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 and form part of the single pot.

Announcements about major schemes are not being made today and this settlement does not include the funding support for them. In July the Secretary of State responded to advice from regions about their priorities for major transport projects - including those promoted by local authorities - up to 2015/16. The indicative budgets sustain the record level of investment being made over the ten year period.

THE LOCAL POSITION

Second Local Transport Plan

Each of the final second Local Transport Plans has been classified as excellent, good, fair or weak. Your final Local Transport Plan has been assessed as being **good**.

The good classification means that a standard of transport planning equivalent to the top end of last year's 'promising' category has been evidenced.

Annex 1 contains details about the assessment made of your plan and further information about the assessment process is being published on the Department for Transport website (link as above).

Delivery of the First Local Transport Plan

Each of the Delivery Reports about first Local Transport Plans has been classified as being excellent, very good, good or satisfactory. In your case, delivery was assessed as being **good**.

Very good to satisfactory delivery was demonstrated by the wide range of authorities that were not assessed as excellent but which showed at least a satisfactory range of achievement across the strategy areas.

Your particular Delivery Report demonstrated a good standard of overall delivery and a positive impact on local transport provision in your area, with some strong delivery in places. There are, however, areas for improvement.

Good progress has been made in improving road safety in the first Local Transport Plan period. You are on track to meet the 2010 target for reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on West Yorkshire's roads and the 2010 target for reducing the number of children killed or seriously injured was met by 2005.

Progress on increasing rail patronage has also been good with an increase of 6.8m passengers over the period. Substantial improvements have been made to bus infrastructure, including several new/improved interchanges, a real time information system and bus stop/shelter renewals. However, this has not had a positive impact on bus patronage and the decline in the number of bus users remain a concern.

Some progress has been made on encouraging more sustainable home to school travel. Some 340 schools now have a travel plan and initiatives such as Safe Routes to School, the SAFEmark scheme and the Yellow Bus ('My Bus') major scheme have also had an impact. However, surveys show that car use for the home to school journey has increased and it is to be hoped the initiatives mentioned above will start to have a real impact on the second Local Transport Plan period.

Where there are areas for improvement, the Government Office and the Department will offer you support and advice.

Details about the assessments are being published on the Department for Transport website (link as above).

Integrated Transport Block Allocations

The funding allocations for the integrated transport block for your plan area are as follows:

West Yorkshire	2007/08 £m	2008/09 £m	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m
Allocation	27.960	29.452	31.054	32.657

Your 2007/08 allocation is the previously published planning guideline with an uplift of 3% because of your good Local Transport Plan.

There have been changes made to the published planning guidelines for 2008/09 to 2010/11. Details are being published on the Department for Transport website (link as above).

For 2007/08 SCE (R)s covering part of the West Yorkshire allocation (75% of the planning guideline published last year for 2007/08 – in your case £20.359m) have already been included in the revenue support grant settlement announced last year. The difference will be paid as direct grant within the single pot. The SCE (R)s for each authority in West Yorkshire are as follows:-

Authority	2007/08 SCE (R) £m
Bradford	3.171
Calderdale	1.712
Kirklees	2.742
Leeds	4.195
Wakefield	2.343
West Yorkshire PTA	6.196
TOTAL	20.359

The Department has not allocated all of your plan's integrated transport block to individual authorities. You have already advised us how you would like your integrated transport

allocations split and based on the allocation of £27.960m the figures for the individual authorities are as follows:-

Authority	% Split	Allocation £m
Bradford	14.45	4.040
Calderdale	7.30	2.041
Kirklees	11.70	3.271
Leeds	24.55	6.864
Wakefield	11.80	3.300
West Yorkshire PTA	30.20	8.444
TOTAL	100.00	27.960

Could you please confirm this is still how you would like the allocations split or advise me of any alterations by **31 January 2007**.

Joint Plan Maintenance Allocations

Maintenance

The total allocation of the West Yorkshire plan area is confirmed as £30.878m.

The formulaic allocations for your area are:

Authority	Overall Formulaic Allocation (£m)
Bradford	3.968
Calderdale	3.193
Kirklees	6.219
Leeds	7.423
Wakefield	2.924
Total	23.727

In addition, the following is being provided for major maintenance and strengthening on the primary route network:

Authority	Route	Structure	Allocation (£m)
Bradford	A6036	Odsal Phase 2 Edge Beams	0.510
Bradford	A629	Retaining Walls	0.450
Calderdale	A58	Burdock Way Parapets/King's Cross Viaduct	1.442
Calderdale	A58	Godley Cutting Retaining Wall	0.150
Kirklees	A62/A629/A640	Huddersfield Ring Road Parapets	0.600
Kirklees	A642	Mining Museum	0.300
Kirklees	A629	Dean Bottom Culvert	0.120
Kirklees	A629	Abbey Lane Culvert	0.075
Kirklees	A640	New Hey Subway	0.075
Kirklees	A638	Aldams Road	0.150
Kirklees	A58	Whitehall Way Retaining Walls	0.145
Kirklees	A637	Barnsley Road Retaining Walls	0.125
Kirklees	A644	Huddersfield Road Retaining Walls	0.210
Kirklees	A629	Penistone Road Retaining Walls	0.300
Leeds	A64(M)	New York Road Tunnel	1.600
Leeds	A6120	Calverley River Bridge	0.500
Leeds	A6120	Calverley Canal Bridge	0.400
Total			7.152

The bid for £0.130m by Bradford in respect of the Odsal Footbridge over the A6036 has not been met as only structures on and not over the PRN are eligible for funding.

The following exceptional maintenance bid submitted for West Yorkshire was not accepted:

- i) Wakefield MDC: A636 Denby Dale Road/Charlesworth Road. The Department considered that further work was needed to demonstrate the suitability of this scheme for exceptional maintenance funding.

An SCE (R) covering part of your allocation (75% of the formula element of last year's allocation) has already been included in the revenue support grant settlement announced last year. The remainder will be paid as direct grant within the single pot. The maintenance funding by authority is:-

Authority	SCE (R) (A) £m	Total (B)	Direct Grant (B-A) £m
Bradford	3.890	4.928	1.038
Calderdale	2.912	4.785	1.873
Kirklees	4.401	8.319	3.918
Leeds	6.477	9.923	3.446
Wakefield	2.549	2.924	0.375

Maintenance Arrangements for 2008/09 and beyond

Following the spending review, the Department proposes to make a three year settlement for maintenance for the remainder of the second Local Transport Plan period.

The Department proposes to review the arrangements for funding PRN bridge strengthening and major maintenance, together with those for exceptional maintenance schemes in future years, and to consider refreshing the maintenance formula. For this purpose the Department would like to set up a group on which we would welcome participation from local authority representatives. The Department expects that the group would meet on a couple of occasions in early 2007, with the aim of announcing any changes in the spring. If any of your highway maintenances colleagues would be interested in joining the group I shall be grateful if they would advise my colleague, Mark Duggleby, whose contact details can be found below, by 10 January 2007:

Mark Duggleby
Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
Integrated Transport Team
City House
PO Box 213
New Station Street
Leeds
LS1 4US

Email: mark.duggleby@goyh.gsi.gov.uk

Maintenance of Recently Detrunked Roads

In addition to the funding outlined above, funding is being made available for the following sections of road:

Authority	Route	Scheme	Allocation (£m)
Bradford	A65	Carriageway strengthening/resurfacing	0.195
Calderdale	A646	Carriageway resurfacing/footway	0.260
Leeds	A6120/A660	Resurfacing	0.691
Total			1.146

Funding will be provided as Capital Grant in 2007/08.

THE REGIONAL PICTURE

In total, £156.115m will be invested in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. I have included a Press Notice with this letter, which provides further detail.

CONCLUSION

I would like to thank you for all the work that your officers have undertaken in producing your second Local Transport Plan and first Delivery Report. I know that all my colleagues appreciate the co-operation you have given them throughout the year and we will continue to work with you as you put your second Local Transport Plan into action.

Please contact Phil Jones on 0113 2836608 or e-mail phil.jones@goyh.gsi.gov.uk if you have any queries about this letter. We hope to be able to meet with your authority early in the New Year to provide more detailed feedback.

This letter is also being published on the Department for Transport website.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Jackson,
Director, Economy and Strategy

