



Department for Transport

By email

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John Dowie wrote to you in August outlining our intention to produce more detailed guidance about the setting up of Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) and our requirements for local assurance frameworks. This followed the consultation exercise for plans to devolve funding for local major transport schemes that we carried out earlier this year. We published our main proposals for taking forward major scheme devolution on 18th September and I am now pleased to enclose a copy of the detailed guidance document on assurance frameworks which is being published today.

You will recall there was overwhelming support for the principle of devolution. One of the most important issues emerging from the consultation and subsequent discussions we've had with local partners was the need for greater clarity from DfT on how we can be assured LTBs are fit for purpose and have the necessary arrangements in place to ensure value for money and good decision making. This guidance sets out our key requirements and principles.

We acknowledge that this guidance is appearing later than we had initially anticipated and we appreciate that concerns have been raised from some stakeholders over timescales, in particular, the December deadline for LTBs to submit their assurance frameworks and the subsequent April 2013 deadline to submit their prioritised lists. We acknowledge the timescales are challenging but they are driven by the need to ensure sufficient numbers of schemes are ready for delivery from 2015/16. We do, however, aim to be flexible as well as pragmatic and are therefore extending these deadlines to February 2013 and July 2013 respectively.

As you will note from the guidance document we are happy to adopt a practical approach to frameworks that have the essential matters covered by the deadlines but require more detail to be fleshed out later. The important thing is to engage closely as your respective drafts and proposals develop. Our local engagement teams are well placed to help provide you with advice and support enabling us to work together to resolve issues quickly and effectively and ensure arrangements meet minimum standards. This support could include direct advice and assistance to individual LTBs but in parallel we also plan to provide more general support and guidance in the form of written material and

Appendix 1

workshops early in the new year on aspects such as proportionality in appraisal and producing value for money statements. We hope these will provide useful tools for you in producing your assurance frameworks to the required standard.

It has never been the Department's intention to be overly burdensome but putting in place the robust arrangements now will benefit all of us for the long term. We all want a system that works for everyone and to attain this we need to work together to ensure we have in place good governance systems, effective processes for identifying priorities along with high standards of programme management and investment decisions.

We cannot give a full list of indicative funding levels as we are still awaiting confirmation of LTB geography. Ministers are considering the geography issues and we hope to make a decision soon, at which point we can publish these indicative figures. I would however remind you that the indicative funding will be based on £1.1bn nationally (England excluding London) allocated to local areas by population as set out in John Dowie's letter of 2nd August.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please contact your DfT local engagement teams.



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