

Bob Fowler  
Service Manager, Major Transport Projects,  
Bristol City Council  
Wilder House  
Wilder Street  
Bristol BS2 8PH

Direct line: 020 7944 2622

Web site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)  
E-mail: [bob.collins@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bob.collins@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

7 December 2011

Dear Bob,

### **BUS RAPID TRANSIT ASHTON VALE TO TEMPLE MEADS – FUNDING APPROVAL AND RECONFIRMATION OF PROGRAMME ENTRY**

Following the receipt of your Best and Final Funding Bid dated 9 September 2011 for the above scheme and following consideration of that bid, this letter confirms that Ministers have agreed to provide Bristol City Council the funding requested, subject to the following conditions, and thereby reconfirm Programme Entry for the scheme.

This should allow your Authority to complete the remaining legal and procurement processes (but not enter into contractual or other legal commitments for the construction of the scheme) following which a request for Full Approval can be made. Once Full Approval has been granted the required contractual and other legal commitments for the construction of the scheme can be entered into.

#### **DfT Funding**

As part of this approval the Department will provide a maximum funding contribution of **£34.508m** towards the estimated total scheme cost of **£41.482m** (as clarified by Darren Pacey on 31 October). **No further funding will be provided by the Department for this scheme.** Should Full Approval of your scheme be granted, funding will be paid as capital grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to an indicative profile to be agreed.

#### **Terms and Conditions of Funding**

This offer of funding is subject to the following conditions:

- i. This funding approval is granted entirely without prejudice to any view that the Secretary of State or other Ministers may take on any future application for statutory powers or in accordance with any other functions.
- ii. The scheme must be implemented in accordance with the scheme proposals as set out in your Best and Final Funding Bid, including that it will be delivered within the timescale set out in your bid, subject to any changes which may occur as a result of further design or as a result of any remaining statutory procedures. Ministers reserve the right to reconsider their decision on funding if there are any

changes to the overall cost, scope or design of the scheme which they consider to be material, particularly where such changes would alter the value for money of the scheme. You must notify the Department immediately of any such material changes, and provide on request any appropriate evidence to determine the impact of the changes on the scheme's value for money.

- iii. The Department's contribution will be a maximum of **£34.508m**. No further funding will be provided by the Department. Bristol City Council, as lead authority, is solely responsible for meeting any expenditure over and above this amount and for securing any agreed funding contributions from North Somerset Council. This includes any maintenance or operating costs and any Part 1 Claims.
- iv. Should the final cost of the scheme be lower than £41.482m the savings will be shared between the Department and Bristol City Council in proportion to the share of funding as set out in this letter. The Department also reserves the right to reduce its contribution should you receive a greater level of third party contributions than currently anticipated, to the extent that the direct local authority contribution falls below 5% of total scheme costs.
- v. Should this scheme progress to Full Approval, further detailed conditions may apply to any grant payable. These may include matters not yet discussed with you. It is expected that grant would be claimed quarterly in arrears on the basis of actual work done.
- vi. Bristol City Council will be solely responsible for the validity of the procurement process for the scheme.
- vii. We expect you to keep us closely informed of progress with, and expenditure on, the scheme and it is important that you complete and return quarterly monitoring forms by the due date.
- viii. You will be required to carry out a full evaluation of the scheme, the details of which we would wish to discuss with you. We would expect you to make the results of this evaluation available to the Department.
- ix. You are required to ensure that there is an appropriate project assurance mechanism in place (in the case of schemes with an overall cost greater than £50m this should include formal Gateway reviews) and to make the results and recommendations of such reviews available to the Department on request.
- x. The delivery of bus services, broadly as set out on the Best and final Funding Bid, is an integral element of the scheme and we expect you to keep us informed of progress. Firm plans must be in place before Full Approval will be considered.
- xi. You must review your procurement arrangements for the scheme and provide updated proposals to the Department's satisfaction within 6 months of this letter.

I should be grateful for written confirmation, including certification from your Section 151 Officer, that Bristol City Council agrees to the above terms and conditions.

## **Full Approval**

No grant may be claimed until the Department has confirmed Full Approval status for this scheme. Your formal request to the Department for Full Approval will need to include:

- confirmation of the overall cost and scope of the scheme, and details of confirmed funding contributions from third parties;
- a declaration that that you have acquired all the necessary statutory powers to construct the scheme (Traffic Regulation Orders excepted);
- confirmation that you have completed the procurement process to a stage where you have a preferred bidder and a firm and final offer (in the case of schemes with multiple procurements the timing of the Full Approval bid should be discussed with the Department);
- your evaluation plans for the scheme;
- confirmation that the necessary agreements are in place to guarantee the delivery of bus services, broadly as set out in the Best and Final Funding Bid.
- confirmation from your S151 officer that Bristol City Council has the ability to underwrite all remaining funding required over and above the maximum Departmental contribution, including any additional funding required as a result of any remaining legal and procurement processes.

The Department reserves the right to request any further relevant information prior to reaching a decision on Full Approval, including a proportionate review of delivery and procurement arrangements as necessary.

I look forward to receiving a bid for Full Approval once the above information is available.

Yours sincerely,

**Bob Collins**