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Your Ref:
 Our Ref: SW/THM/4062/3/13
 Date: 18 March 2004

Dear George

Salisbury Transport Package

I am pleased to confirm that following consideration of the detailed reappraisal you submitted last year that Ministers have agreed to increase the contributions which they are prepared to make to the Salisbury Transport package to £21.928m. In taking this decision Ministers recognised the considerable progress that you and Salisbury have made in implementing the Salisbury Package of the last three years. In line with your submitted spend profile we will be releasing £5.62m for 2004/2005. Our general aim with major schemes is to ensure that wherever possible 50% of the funding is provided in the form of grant and 50% in the form of borrowing approvals over the life of the scheme. We are unable to give you borrowing approval for next financial year so the above sum will be provided by way of grant.

However because you do not have all the statutory consents to implement the Petersfinger Park & Ride we can only give **provisional approval for the £3.2m cost of this element of the package**. Once you have the necessary powers to implement this part of the package please let us know so that, subject to no further cost increase, funds can be released.

I should be grateful if you would keep us informed of progress with the scheme. We need to be kept informed of any changes to the anticipated costs for the scheme. I should emphasise that in agreeing this overall cost increase Ministers made it clear that they did not expect to see any further requests for cost increases for this set of proposals.

Could I also remind you of the requirement for Government wide branding of major investment projects. It is a condition of scheme acceptance that the Government's contribution is advertised in an approved form. Details of the requirements for the Government wide branding are available from the Cabinet Office website at the following address – www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/index/buildingforthefuture/index.htm

Ministers are keen to work with you on monitoring the benefits of this important scheme. I think there is a real opportunity for the Salisbury Package to become a demonstration project which will show how integrated measures can be successfully implemented through close partnership working between a District and County Councils. I am sure that Ministers will continue to take a close interest in the implementation of this project.

Finally can I thank you for your patience during this difficult time. I recognise the considerable difficulties that you have had to endure over the last year and I look forward to the successful implementation of the remaining elements of the scheme.

If you need anything further please do not hesitate to contact me on 0117 - 9001883.

Yours sincerely

Peter Dawson
Head of Regional Transport