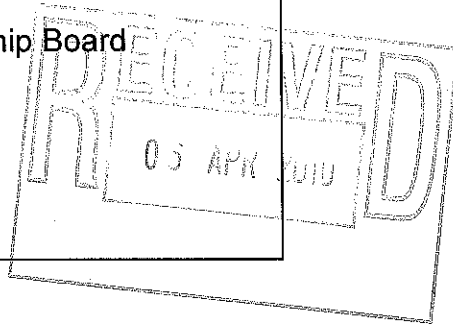


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31st March 2010

Dear Cllr Robertson

South East England Regional Transport Programme – Gatwick Airport Station

Thank you for your letter of 19th March 2010. Your correspondence has been passed to me as the official leading on the national Regional Funding Allocation Programme.

I am pleased to confirm that the Department is in a position to support the above scheme.

The Department is prepared to commit a maximum of £5.8m to this scheme provided the funds are spent in 2010/11. If funds are not invested in this scheme in 2010/11, it must not be assumed that the figure can be carried forward.

I understand that as design and costs are refined, the current figure of £53m for the overall scheme may reduce. Agreement to the £5.8m is subject to the first £800k of any savings, as a result of the refinement, to be set against the DfT contribution. Thereafter, DfT would not expect to take advantage of any further savings unless the South East Partnership Board wishes to negotiate otherwise. Therefore, subject to the above, the minimum DfT contribution to this scheme will be £5m.

DfT will not seek a business case in support of the £5.8m investment. Instead, it is expected that the South East Partnership Board will retain governance over the delivery of the investment and report to government as required.

I would welcome your confirmation that DfT funds will be fully spent on the scheme in 2010/11.

Yours sincerely

Mostaque Ahmed

cc. Jonathan Shaw MP, Regional Minister
Julian Abel, DfT
Susan Stuart, Government Office South East
David Cooper, Government Office South East
Stephen Dapaah, Government Office South East
Martin Tugwell, South East Partnership Board
James Renwick, South East Partnership Board