IT Block Funding Review

IT Block Funding Review Group – Terms of Reference

Purpose

The IT Block Funding Review Group is responsible for reviewing the Integrated Transport Block funding formula, considering all potential options.

Membership

- DfT (Chair)
- Nominees from:
  - Association of Directors of the Environment, Planning and Transport (Adept)
  - Association of Transport Coordinating Officers (ATCO)
  - Campaign for Better Transport
  - Local Government Association (LGA)
  - Passenger Transport Executive Group (Pteg)
- Representatives from the Department’s Local Capital Programmes and Delivery Division

Terms of Reference

The review group will:

- advise DfT about the appropriate structure of a formula, the variables to be used and their weightings, to distribute Integrated Transport Block funding for the future, possibly from 2013/14 onwards;
- ensure the formula is aligned with the key guiding principles;
- advise DfT about any technical issues related to particular variables being considered for inclusion in the formula;
- advise DfT about any other relevant considerations for the introduction of the formula; and
- report the group’s recommendations to Ministers, setting out any implications for how a subsequent formal consultation should be framed.

Although the review group will advise the Department and report its recommendations, the final decision on any changes to the formula will rest with Ministers.

Considerations

The following key guiding principles are proposed as a basis for the review:

Complete review - The review group should undertake a complete review of the existing formula, considering all potential options.

1 CBT declined to nominate a member, but have been asked to provide written input into the group.
Reflect Government and local priorities - The formula should reflect Coalition Government and local government priorities. The group should take into account the Department’s interest in including carbon, cycling and walking data in the formula (alongside other key transport priorities such as supporting economic growth and road safety).

Fairness and equity, based on local authority needs - The formula should be based on variables applicable to all local authorities and which do not make special adjustments for individual councils, council types or regions. Variables should be used to reflect the relative needs of individual local authorities.

Overall shape of the settlement - The review group should consider the impact of current formulae and any proposed changes on the overall shape of the formula allocation, such as the conurbation - urban - rural dimension and the regional split.

Robustness and proportionality - The formula should have robust input data and a robust logic, whilst guarding against excessive administrative burdens on central and local government.

Appropriate flexibility - Flexibility should be considered in order that future developments may be included in the formula at an appropriate future date.

Conduct of business

- Meetings will be held in July, September and November 2011
- Relevant papers will be circulated at least one week prior to a meeting
- Meetings will be minuted
- When absent, review group members may send a substitute
- The group will report to ministers with final recommendations in early December 2011