



**Department
for Transport**

Ben Houchen
Mayor of Tees Valley Combined Authority
Cavendish House
Teesdale Business Park
Stockton-on-Tees
Tees Valley
TS17 6QY

D Be

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-mail: chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/dft

12 Mark

I am pleased to be writing to you as Chair of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to set out the details of TVCA's allocation from the Transforming Cities Fund. As announced at Autumn Budget 2017, TVCA will be receiving £59 million in capital grant from central government for transport investment programmes.

In establishing this fund, the Government aims to transform intra-city connectivity, supporting access to jobs across England's largest city regions and driving productivity. Investment should be focused on improving public and sustainable transport, helping to reduce congestion and improve air quality, and I encourage TVCA to consider use of new mobility systems and technology.

These allocations are being provided directly to Mayoral Combined Authorities to take investment decisions according to their own priorities. This is a new approach which demonstrates the Government's commitment to devolved decision-making for city regions. I strongly encourage you to ensure transport investment supports the wider local growth objectives of Tees Valley, and to engage the support of local stakeholders to maximise the impact of this funding, as I am sure you will.

Funding will be provided over four years to 2021/22, as detailed below, and will be a single grant for Tees Valley. As such, it will be your decision what transport investments you prioritise with this funding.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
£4m	£13m	£18m	£24m	£59m

Patricia Hayes, Director General of Roads, Devolution and Motoring will be writing to Managing Director, Andrew Lewis shortly, outlining more detail of the grant, and our expectations about transparency and ensuring value for money.

I look forward to hearing more about the programmes in which TVCA wish to invest.

The Transforming Cities Fund marks an important step in our support of elected mayors. I hope we can build on this progress; my Department stands ready to support you in developing your plans to ensure they have maximum benefit to the city region. I look forward to working with you and with TVCA to this end.

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Grayling".A small, stylized handwritten mark or flourish below the signature.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT