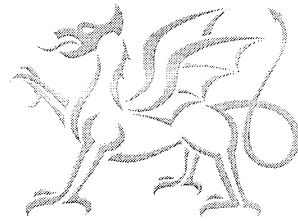


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
CYMRU IAW CYMRU

DP 297/99-03

LLYFRGELL BAE CARROYDD
LLYFRGELL BAE CYMRU



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Mr Robin Morrison
Chief Executive
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
EBBW VALE. NP3 6XB

Eich cyf . Your ref
Ein cyf . Our ref CZ603-03-31-0001

Dyddiad . Date 30 January 2003

Dear Sir

TRANSPORT GRANT 2003-2004- ACCEPTED EXPENDITURE

1. Acting on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government and exercising the powers delegated to them by the National Assembly for Wales, the Ministers (Assembly Government) have considered the information submitted by your Council with your bid for Transport Grant (TG). This letter indicates the amount of your Council's estimated expenditure for 2003-2004, which the Assembly Government has accepted for TG under Section 87 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2. The Assembly Government has considered your bid for £8.692 million. It has determined to accept estimated expenditure by your Council of up to £7.619 million. A breakdown of allocation by project is attached at Annex A. Detailed advice and conditions of grant are attached at Annex B.

Conditions Relating to Project Expenditure

3. The settlement is intended to enable your Council to proceed with main works on the A4046 Cwm Relief Road scheme .The agreed total cost for the scheme remains at £26 million. We are aware that there are pressures in terms of compensation events. Every avenue must be explored to achieve cost savings/value engineering solutions in order to contain costs within this limit.

4. The availability of CORUS Money and Objective 1 resources for the Ebbw Vale Railway, mean that Transport Grant funding is unlikely to be needed until towards the end of project implementation. If however, the cash available for 2003-2004 proves insufficient you may re-apply for this decision to be reconsidered.

5. Total funding of £1.261 million will be allocated to Bridgend County Borough Council in

Parc Cathays
Caerdydd
CF10 3NQ

Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ



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response to the SEWTF cycling bid. The Forum's support for the development of urban cycling routes as the main priority across the region has been noted and I will be indicating that the Brynmawr Urban Route is one of those I would expect to see implemented with that settlement.

6. Funding for the TIGER integrated ticketing is conditional upon your Authority ensuring that the system and operation are sufficiently flexible to secure inter-operability with existing schemes in the SWIFT and SSWITCH area and with any future wider national schemes. Your Council should also inform me of the agreements in place for revenue costs like repairs and maintenance of units.

7. The Assembly Government has determined to continue to provide support for development work on the TIGER overall strategy and has determined an allocation of £200,000, which will be made available to Torfaen County Borough Council, as treasurer for the consortium.

8. Copies of this letter have been sent to the Chief Finance Officers, Chief Technical Officers and Chief Education Officers.

9. If you wish to accept this offer, please sign the enclosed copy of this letter and return to me by 28 February 2003.

Yours faithfully



D H JONES

Head of Transport Policy Division
Transport Directorate

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council accepts the offer of Transport Grant under Section 87 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, in accordance with the terms of the Assembly Government letter and Annexes A and B of 30 January 2003.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
TRANSPORT GRANT 2003-2004 – ACCEPTED EXPENDITURE

	Bid £m	Accepted £m
<u>Existing Schemes</u>		
Cwm Relief Road – Ebbw Fawr Regeneration Strategy Phase 1	7.000	7.000
TIGER M – Ebbw Valley Railway	1.073	Nil
<u>New Schemes</u>		
TIGER O – Integrated Ticketing	0.420	0.420
TIGER U – Improving Community Accessibility	0.230	0.230
<u>Safe Routes to Schools</u>		
Tredegar	0.044	0.044
	8.692	7.619

Indicative Allocations determined by the Assembly Government :-

TIGER Schemes

TIGER O £0.130 million for 2004-2005
TIGER U £0.230 million for both 2004-2005 and for 2005-2006

These allocations cover the total cost of the TIGER schemes, as identified in your bid, and represent the full funding that the Assembly Government expects to allocate.

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ADVICE AND CONDITIONS OF TRANSPORT GRANT 2003-2004

Financial Information

1. Transport Grant is payable at the rate of 50% on this settlement. The non-grant element of this settlement will be covered by supplementary credit approvals (SCA's), under Section 54 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Payment of TG and the issue of SCA's will be made in four instalments on a need basis. These requisitions need to be submitted in April, July, November and March, and should estimate resources likely to be spent for each following 3 months up to the overall ceiling detailed in Annex A.
Allocations not requisitioned do not carry forward to the following financial year.
2. For expenditure to be eligible for TG, it must fall within the Section 40 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 definition and Section 88 (3) of Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended.
3. **Revenue support for services is not eligible. TG support is conditional upon Local Authorities commitment to meet revenue and future maintenance costs arising in respect of the capital asset.**
4. **Switching of financial resources** – The Welsh Assembly Government expects the Council to have full regard to the conditions of the Transport Grant in making its resource allocations though it recognises that implementation of the programme may need to differ from that implicit in the settlement. However, the Council is requested not to switch more than 10% of its accepted expenditure on any individual scheme in 2003-2004 without the prior agreement of the Assembly Government.
5. **Land Costs** – Where bids for accepted projects include provision for land acquisition or Part 1 claims, no settlement has been identified. Resources up to the level of the bid will be made available if and when land costs need to be met, and your Authority has written to me confirming actual costs.

Audit

6. District Auditors will audit expenditure of this grant in accordance with the approvals in this letter and having regard to the details of the accepted bid proposals.

Issues Applicable to all Authorities

7. **Major Capital Schemes** – The Assembly Government has determined that arrangements for monitoring and controlling costs should apply to all individual schemes with estimated cost in excess of £1 million. **Any change in the estimated overall costs of an individual scheme which is either greater than 20% or more than £3 million should be notified to Welsh Assembly Government as soon as it becomes known.** Authorities should submit a revised TG2 form with final engineers estimates, for agreement by the Assembly Government before committing to contracts. The total project cost, which will attract grant/SCA support at 100% will then be determined.

8. **Cost Increases** – The Assembly Government will require clear justification for any increases and quantification of the effects on the value for money and economic return of the scheme. Normally 100% support will be extended to cover cost increases, which are beyond the Local Authorities control or could not have been foreseen, if this does not call into question the case of the scheme.
However, support will be limited to 80% where cost increases might have been predicted and or avoided.
9. **Monitoring/Evaluation** – It is a requirement of TG support that Local Authorities submit monitoring/evaluation reports on all supported and ongoing projects. A note of progress on TG schemes should be included as part of the annual progress report on the Local Transport Plan.
10. **Disability Issues** – Local Authorities attention is drawn to the recommendations of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee established under the Transport Act 1985, recommendations for mobility and inclusion and other relevant legislation. Local Authorities are required to plan and design accessibility for disabled people as a condition of TG support.
11. **Signing** – All significant TG schemes under construction should clearly display bilingually the words “Supported by the Welsh Assembly Government” and “Gyda chymorth Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru”. Within 4 months of completion a permanent plaque should be erected clearly recording the Welsh Assembly Government’s support for the investment.
12. **Publicity** – The Local Authority shall acknowledge the financial contribution made to its Transport development projects/schemes by use of the bilingual Welsh Assembly Government logo in all material produced and released into the public domain.