

8 June 2007

To: County and City Managers of Gateway Local Authorities, and Directors of the Regional Authorities and the Regional Assemblies

Gateway Innovation Fund – Call for Proposals

Dear Manager,

Proposals for funding under the Gateway Innovation Fund are now being sought from Gateway Lead Authorities (GLAs). The attached Call for Proposals sets out the scope, operation and management of the Fund, and in particular, sets out assessment criteria for proposals and the timeframes. I would draw your attention to the closing time and date for submission of proposals – **3pm on Thursday, 15th November 2007.**

As stated in my letter of 23 May, the Department intends to meet with each Gateway Lead Authority (GLA) and the supporting local authorities between now and the end of June to discuss and clarify any issues around the Fund and the preparation of proposals.

We also intend to provide a regularly updated “points of clarification” document on our dedicated NSS website – www.irishspatialstrategy.ie - on which we will make available any clarifications and answers to specific administrative issues, as they are received from the gateway authorities. Please send any queries to the Spatial Policy Unit via the dedicated email address – gif@environ.ie.

However, in the interest of fairness and good practice, the Department will refrain from providing further assistance or guidance to gateway authorities after the end of June.

I look forward to our bi-lateral discussions this month and to your positive engagement under the Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Walsh
Principal
Spatial Policy