



Department
for Education

Department for Education
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

24 September 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Blackpool Borough Council
Derby City Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Norfolk County Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Somerset County Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Sussex County Council
Suffolk County Council
Stoke-on-Trent City Council

**Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for the Opportunity Areas Grant (2019-20
[DfE GR1000891] MHCLG 31/3829**

This Determination is made between:

- (1) **The Secretary of State for Education and**
- (2) **The local authorities listed at Annex A.**

I am pleased to confirm further details of the Government's offer to the Council following agreement that the Opportunity Areas (OAs) Grant would be devolved.

We are devolving this Grant under a Section 31 non-ring fenced transfer (Local Government Finance Act 2003). Our expectation is that the Council will use the funds to support the aims of the Opportunity Areas programme. The Senior Responsible Owner for this Grant, Alison Wilson, will require your responsible officer to confirm at the end of each financial year that the funding has been properly expended.

The total funding available for the OA programme is £72m, over three years, 2017-18 to 2019-20. As set out previously, a substantial proportion of that money is being channelled through the relevant top tier local authorities.

This year, 2019-20, we expect to make funds available to local authorities in the form of two, non-ring-fenced grants. This letter covers the first of these.

The payments to all 12 OAs take account of expenditure already made or committed, and proposed new activity outlined in the local delivery plans. We have discussed and agreed the specific amounts with the DfE Head of Delivery in each OA, who works closely with local partners. A total of £9.5m will be paid in September 2019 to the local authorities listed in Annex A.

Purpose of the Grant

The Council can spend this grant to promote activity in the Opportunity Area that will improve the social mobility outcomes of children and young people. Whilst you may choose how to spend the money in order to best meet local need, as with the previous payments in the previous years of the programme, 2017-18 and 2018-19, we anticipate that all decisions will be informed by the actions and commitments made in the local OA delivery plan.

The Department's aspiration is that local authorities should use the funding provided to:

- implement the actions in the Opportunity Areas delivery plans to improve the social mobility outcomes of children and young people across all life stages;
- offer targeted support and fund activities that address social mobility barriers locally across all life stages;
- coordinate through the OA partnership board regional activities with the intention of improving system capacity in school and early years leadership, the quality of the education and early years workforce, curriculum programmes and school clubs;
- support activities that seek to improve personal development, raise aspirations, provide opportunities for career experience and skills development, and participation in volunteering and social action projects; and
- establish pilot interventions and programmes focussing on areas which might include (but would not be limited to) the home learning environment, teacher workload, teacher recruitment, children and young people's mental health, training for SEND practitioners, pathways to employment for young people, and speech, language and communication needs in early years.

The local authority may also use the grant to pay the salary of the local project manager, who is in most cases being employed through the local authority, to fund any "new burdens" and cover reasonable expenses associated with administering this grant.

Payment arrangements

We intend to make a further payment in the financial year of 2019-20. The exact amounts for each OA will be dependent on previous funding and the needs identified in the OA delivery plans for the relevant period.

Arrangements for keeping in touch with the Department for Education and the Head of Delivery

Formal reporting to the Department for Education on progress is not a condition of this grant. The Department for Education will, however, ask the Council to provide a voluntary end of year return and report confirming activity that has taken place or been funded.

The Department for Education would also be happy to receive any information about effective practice and activity that substantively addresses social mobility across all life stages of children and young people.

This letter has been copied to the Directors of Children's Services in all participating local authorities, Opportunity Area Heads of Delivery, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about the Opportunity Areas, please contact Opportunity.AREAS@education.gov.uk

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alison Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Alison Wilson
Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education

Annex A

REVENUE grant determination (non-ringfenced)

Opportunity Areas GRANT DETERMINATION 2019-20: No 31/3829

The Secretary of State for Education (Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following determination:

Citation

1) This determination may be cited as the Opportunity Areas Grant Determination (2019-20) [31/3829].

Purpose of the grant

2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them.

Determination

3) The Secretary of State determines as the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid. The authorities and the amounts are set out in Annex A.

Treasury consent

4) Before making this determination in relation to local authorities in England, the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education



Alison Wilson, Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education

September 2019

Authorities to which grant is to be paid	Opportunity Area	Amount of grant to be paid
Blackpool Borough Council	Blackpool	750,000
Derby City Council	Derby	750,000
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire Coast	750,000
Norfolk County Council	Norwich	750,000
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Oldham	1,000,000
Somerset County Council	W Somerset	750,000
Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Bradford	1,000,000
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Doncaster	750,000
Cambridgeshire County Council	Fenland & E Cambs	750,000
East Sussex County Council	Hastings	750,000
Suffolk County Council	Ipswich	750,000
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	Stoke-on-Trent	750,000