



Department for
Communities and
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Leaders of all Local Authorities

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Localising council tax support grant

I am writing to follow up my letter of 6th January in which I set out the Government's position on the passing down of the localised council tax support grant to parish and town councils.

In the Government's written ministerial statement, laid in parliament on 5th February (link below), I made it clear that the Government's intention was that part of the funding provided to local authorities in respect of the localised council tax support should be passed down to parish and town councils.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140205/wmstext/140205m0001.htm#14020567000002>

Following my earlier letter, I am disappointed to learn from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that a number of authorities are refusing to pass down any such funding. Without this funding, Parishes will be under pressure to increase their council tax precept in order to fill the void or to scale back the services they provide. In the spirit of localism I would therefore encourage you to pass down funding to avoid indirectly putting pressure on your council taxpayers. However, if an authority does insist on not passing down funding I would expect the authority to justify to their council taxpayer as to the reasons why.

BRANDON LEWIS MP