Department for Education

Janice Gillespie,
Chief Finance Officer for North of Tyne CA
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Cobalt Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
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And

Julie Gilhespie
Tees Valley Combined Authority,
Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park,
Stockton-on-Tees,
Tees Valley
TS17 6QY

15 April 2021

Dear Janice and Julie,

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Opportunity North East (ONE) Careers and Business Engagement Pilot *[No 31/5379* and *Project_3918]*.

This Determination is made between:

(1) The Secretary of State for Education and

(2) The North East Combined Authority and the Tees Valley Combined Authority (see Annex A)

I am pleased to confirm further details of the Government's offer to the combined authorities following agreement from the Opportunity North East (ONE) Strategic Board that the proposal put forward jointly by the region's two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) sufficiently addresses 'Challenge 4' of the ONE programme, by delivering an enhanced careers and business engagement pilot that will deliver a repeating cycle of careers advice and bespoke employment-related opportunities for targeted pupils.

We are devolving this Grant under a Section 31 non-ring fenced transfer (Local Government Finance Act 2003). Our expectation is that the combined authorities will channel the funds to the LEPs who are already incurring costs in support of the aims of the ONE programme. The Senior Responsible Owner for this Grant, Kim Mitchell, will require your responsible officer to confirm at the end of each financial year that the funding has been properly expended. Formal reporting to the Department for Education on progress is

not a condition of this grant. The Department for Education will, however, ask the LEPs to provide voluntary termly reports on activity and expenditure to inform regular updates to the Strategic Board on progress made against the programme's aims

This year, 2021-22, we are making funds available to each LEP in the form of one, non-ring-fenced grant.

This payment takes account of the expenditure already made or committed, and proposed new activity outlined in the proposal put forward by the LEPs, and agreed by the ONE Strategic Board. A total of £330,337.00 will be paid in four instalments with the first payment due in June 2021, as summarised in Annex A.

Purpose of the Grant

The combined authorities can channel this funding to their LEPs who can spend this grant to promote activity to improve careers advice in the North East, in order to improve outcomes for young people. Whilst you may choose how to spend the money in order to best meet local need, we anticipate that all decisions will be informed by the actions and commitments made in the proposal put forward by the LEPs, and agreed by the ONE Strategic Board.

The Department's aspiration is that the combined authorities should channel the funding to the LEPs to fund their proposal of an Opportunity North East (ONE) Careers and Business Engagement Pilot. Our shared ambition is to reduce the percentage of pupils who become NEET from the schools involved in the pilot. The LEP's proposal aims to achieve this by:

- Creating a shared system for planning and tracking bespoke plans for each pupil benefitting from the programme;
- Engaging with parents and carers about individual pupil needs, and the opportunities available to them;
- Procuring a sustained programme of independent advice and guidance for the identified pupils, so that they benefit from a repeating cycle of advice and bespoke opportunities to help them achieve their goals from now (they will have started year 10 in September 2020) until they finish in year 11;
- Working with businesses and providers to identify and create bespoke opportunities to meet the needs of the pupils in the programme;
- Funding in-school activity by the identified careers leads, so that they have the capacity to contribute to planning and delivery of the programme;
- Covering the cost of transport to enable pupils to access the opportunities offered to them (or providing alternative ways for pupils to engage in opportunities where travel is not possible due to Covid-19);
- Learning about the impact of this approach, to inform future planning and investment.

The LEPs may also use the grant to pay the salary of staff employed by them to deliver this proposal, and cover reasonable expenses associated with administering this grant.

A New Burdens Assessment is not required in this instance because the activity will be undertaken by LEPs.

Payment arrangements

The exact amounts paid throughout the grant, will be dependent on the use of previous funding and the activity set out in the proposal put forward by the LEPs for the relevant period.

We expect the LEPs to continue to work closely with the DfE towards achieving the aims of the programme, and to maintain existing arrangements for regular discussions with the Opportunity North East team.

This letter has been copied to the two LEPs (Helen Golightly, Michelle Rainbow and Katy Laing of the North East LEP, and Shona Duncan of the Tees Valley LEP). It has also been copied to Her Majesty's Treasury and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about Opportunity North East, please contact opportunitynortheast.enquiries@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Cowell
Regional Schools Commissioner for North

Opportunity North East (ONE) Careers and Business Engagement Pilot GRANT DETERMINATION 2021: No 31/5379 Project_3918

The Minister of State for Universities ("the Minister of State"), 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 North East (ONE) Careers and Business Engagement Pilot Determination 2021 [No31/5379].

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 Minister of State determines the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid; these are set out in Annex A.

Payment of Grant

4) The first payment will be made before 30 July 2021.

Treasury consent

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

Katherine Cowell
Regional Schools Commissioner for North

15 April 2021

ANNEX A – Opportunity North East (ONE) Careers and Business Engagement Pilot GRANT DETERMINATION 2021: No 31/5379 Project_3918

Authorities to which grant is to be paid	Amount of grant to be paid
North of Tyne Combined Authority	£206,016.00
Tees Valley Combined Authority	£124,321.00