



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

29 October 2021

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  
City of 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 Year 5 Grant,  
October 2021 (2021-22 DLUHC 31/5750)**

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 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 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, Elizabeth Franey, 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 for the period 2021-22 is £18.1m. The vast majority of that money is being channelled through the relevant top tier local authorities. 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

£10,184,065 will be paid in October 2021 to the local authorities listed in Annex A. This will be the first payment for this financial year.

### **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, 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;
- support activities to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on children in OAs;
- continue to drive the ambitions of the OA programme's first four years (2017-21) – to build on the successes and consolidate the gains achieved;
- embed successes and effective approaches to support the OAs to be self-sustaining after the fifth year; and
- extend the reach and impact of the programme through 'twinning' (whereby each OA will share effective educational practice with at least one other area facing similar social mobility challenges and levels of disadvantage).

Where agreed with the DfE, the local authority may also use the grant to pay salary costs for local OA programme staff who employed through the local authority, and to fund any "new burdens" and cover reasonable expenses associated with administering this grant.

### **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 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about the Opportunity Areas, please contact  
[Opportunity.AREAS@education.gov.uk](mailto:Opportunity.AREAS@education.gov.uk)

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Franey', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the bottom of the signature.

Elizabeth Franey  
Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education

Annex A

## **REVENUE grant determination (non-ringfenced)**

### **Opportunity Areas Year 5 GRANT DETERMINATION 2021-22: No 31/5750.**

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 (2021-22) [No31/5750].

#### **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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Franey', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Elizabeth Franey, Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education

October 2021

<b>Opportunity Area</b>	<b>Authorities to which grant is to be paid</b>	<b>Amount of grant to be paid</b>
Blackpool	Blackpool Borough Council	£1,274,980
Derby	Derby City Council	£777,100
North Yorkshire Coast	North Yorkshire County Council	£555,400
Norwich	Norfolk County Council	£916,360
Oldham	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	£1,096,200
W Somerset	Somerset County Council	£546,820
Bradford	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	£849,700
Doncaster	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	£835,540
Fenland & E Cambs.	Cambridgeshire County Council	£1,009,725
Hastings	East Sussex County Council	£708,940
Ipswich	Suffolk County Council	£754,120
Stoke-on-Trent	Stoke-on-Trent City Council	£859,180