



# Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Ruth Miller  
*Co-Deputy Director, Local Government  
Reorganisation*  
**Ministry of Housing, Communities and  
Local Government**  
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[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

Chief Executives of councils in Lancashire,  
Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool

9 July 2025

Dear Chief Executives,

We are writing to confirm the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposal development contributions for Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. Following the Statutory Invitation Letter dated 5 February 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has agreed to allocate funding of £449,075 to support the development of local government reorganisation proposals in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool.

The agreed funds for the financial year 2025/26 will be issued as a single, non-ringfenced grant payment under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, with conditions outlined in the Grant Determination. Payments will be sent by BACS by 16 July. Any monitoring or assurance activities for the grant will be conducted through existing, or standard practices. The allocation for 2025/26, detailed in Annex A, is based on the funding allocation methodology outlined by Jim McMahon MP OBE, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, through a [Written Ministerial Statement \(WMS\)](#) on 3 June.

Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool has collectively agreed for the grant to be paid to:

- Blackburn with Darwen: £449,075.00

It is the responsibility of the nominated councils' Section 151 officers to determine eligible expenditure. This expenditure should be agreed upon by all relevant councils and used solely for activities related to developing local government reorganisation proposals, in alignment with the statutory criteria, which has been further restated through the recent WMS and our letter on 3 June.

I have copied this letter to all councils within the Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool area. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your LGR delivery lead: Christian Denison ([christian.denison@communities.gov.uk](mailto:christian.denison@communities.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

**Ruth Miller**  
**Co-Deputy Director, Local Government Reorganisation**  
The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Enc.  
Grant Determination and Annex A - Financial Allocations

**LGR PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS  
GRANT DETERMINATION (2025/26): No 31/7930**

Jim McMahon MP OBE, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution (“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 LGR Proposal Development Contributions Determination (25/26) [No31/7930].

**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 as the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid, the authorities and the amounts set out in Annex A.

**Treasury consent**

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

**UK Government Branding**

5) The Grant Recipient shall at all times during and following the end of the Funding Period:  
5.1 comply with requirements of the Branding Manual in relation to the Funded Activities; and

5.2 cease use of the Funded by UK Government logo on demand if directed to do so by the Minister of State.

6) **Branding Manual** means the HM Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ‘Funded by UK Government branding manual’ first published by the Cabinet Office in November 2022 and is available at <https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/guidance/marketing/branding-guidelines/> including any subsequent updates from time to time].

Signed by authority of Jim McMahon MP OBE, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution

Ruth Miller  
Co-Deputy Director, Local Government Reorganisation  
The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

9/07/25

**Annex A: Financial Allocations July Payments**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Nominated Councils(s)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Cambridgeshire County Council	£318,816.00
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton	Hampshire County Council	£542,174.00
Kent and Medway	Kent County Council	£514,410.00
Lancashire, Blackburn and Blackpool	Blackburn with Darwen	£449,075.00
Norfolk	Norfolk County Council	£107,129.67
	Norwich City Council	£107,129.67
	South Norfolk District Council	£107,129.67
Suffolk	East Suffolk District Council	£145,144.00
	Suffolk County Council	£145,144.00
Surrey	Runnymede Borough Council	£190,367.00
	Surrey County Council	£190,367.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,816,886.01</b>