

Department for Education and Skills

**Local Government
Finance (England)**

**Special Grant
Report (No. 119)**

Report by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills under Section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988

Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed on 14th April 2003

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REPORT ON SPECIAL GRANT FOR:

THE EXCELLENCE IN CITIES AND EXCELLENCE CLUSTER PROGRAMMES

LAI D BEFORE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Introduction

1. This Report is made by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills ("the Secretary of State") and laid before the House of Commons under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act") as substituted by paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It specifies determinations concerning special grants which the Secretary of State proposes to pay to certain local authorities in England.

2. This Report specifies the Secretary of State's determinations of the authorities to which the grants are to be paid, the purposes for which grants are to be paid and the amounts of the grants which he proposes to pay. It also sets out such explanation as the Secretary of State considers desirable of the main features of these determinations and specifies the conditions which the Secretary of State intends to impose on the payments of the grants to which this Report relates.

3. Before making these determinations the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

The Purposes

4. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(b) of the 1988 Act, the Secretary of State hereby determines the following purposes as purposes for which the special grants are to be paid:

to provide support to certain local authorities that are part of the targeted education programmes known as Excellence in Cities and Excellence Clusters.

Amounts Payable to Authorities

5. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(a) and (c)(i) of the 1988 Act, the Secretary of State hereby determines that the authorities to which the special grants are to be paid, the total amounts payable, the manner in which the amounts of the grants are to be calculated, and the allocation to each authority, are as listed in Annex A.

Main features

6. The grant is to provide to local authorities with sufficient resources to support the work of their Excellence in Cities Partnerships and Excellence Clusters Partnerships in raising education standards. Annex B contains such explanation as the Secretary of State considers desirable of the main features of the determination of the grants.

Conditions for the Payment of the Grants

7. Pursuant to section 88B(7) of the 1988 Act, the Secretary of State hereby specifies no conditions which he intends to impose on the payment of the special grants for the purposes described in paragraph 4 above.

*Charles Clarke
Secretary of State for
Education and Skills*

3rd April 2003

The consent of the Treasury has been obtained to the making of these determinations.

*John Heppell
Jim Fitzpatrick
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury*

8th April 2003

Annex A

AUTHORITIES TO WHICH GRANTS ARE PAYABLE AND THE MANNER OF CALCULATION

1. Grant is to be paid to any authority in England which falls within the following classes of receiving authority and which has the functions of a local education authority:

- a. county councils;
- b. London borough councils;
- c. the Common Council of the City of London;
- d. district councils with the functions of county councils; and
- e. councils of metropolitan districts.

and is part of an Excellence in Cities Partnership or Excellence Cluster Partnership.

2. Excellence in Cities areas have to be cities or conurbations and are chosen on the basis of the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM). Authorities are eligible to participate if they had an average of 24% or above FSM in 1999 and 2000.

3. Allocations for authorities in Excellence in Cities Partnerships are based on the number of pupils aged 11-16 in maintained secondary schools and provide for Learning Mentors, Learning Support Units, and enhanced opportunities for Gifted and Talented students. The funding also provides £220,000 to operate each City Learning Centre within EiC partnership areas, and EiC Action Zones receive £250,000 per annum through this grant. EiC Action Zones are a strand of the programme which enables small groups of targeted schools within each EiC partnership area to provide local solutions to shared educational problems. Zones are also encouraged to work closely with local businesses. Any sponsorship raised is match funded pound for pound by the Government up to a maximum of £50,000 per annum. Each zone therefore has the opportunity to receive up to £300,000 a year from the Department.

4. Excellence Clusters are set up in areas which have the greatest number of secondary schools with more than 35% of pupils claiming free school meals and below average performance in terms of achieving 5 A*-Cs at GCSE, and/or schools in Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) areas. Allocations for authorities in Excellence Cluster Partnerships are based on the numbers of pupils in Cluster schools.

Special Grant Allocations 2003-2004

Authority Names	Special Grant Allocation (£)
Barking	2,037,415
Barnet	1,528,500
Barnsley	2,183,647
Birmingham	15,915,940
Blackburn with Darwen	1,677,923
Blackpool	1,308,043
Bradford	8,056,304
Brent	1,939,742
Buckinghamshire	678,000
Camden	2,466,061
Cheshire	914,500
City of Bristol	2,657,560
City of London	12,600
Coventry	1,040,000
Croydon	950,500
Cumbria	771,000
Derby	1,214,000
Doncaster	2,853,287
Durham	660,000
Ealing	2,328,611
Enfield	2,772,126
Gateshead	2,731,289
Greenwich	3,618,773
Hackney	2,881,807
Halton	1,666,326
Hammersmith	1,921,080
Haringey	3,261,407
Hartlepool	1,363,446
Hillingdon	1,484,000
Hounslow	2,176,470
Islington	3,215,303
Kensington & Chelsea	1,682,300
Kent	920,500
Kingston-upon-Hull	3,141,757
Kirklees	2,293,000
Knowsley	3,728,617
Lambeth	2,768,499
Lancashire	2,256,000
Leeds	9,793,670
Leicester	3,281,459
Lewisham	3,279,205
Liverpool	9,201,605
Luton	2,023,496
Manchester	7,895,674
Middlesbrough	2,181,161

Milton Keynes	1,144,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,846,993
Newham	4,569,804
Norfolk	660,000
North Tyneside	1,975,787
Nottingham City	3,150,780
Oldham	2,543,154
Peterborough	696,250
Portsmouth	1,130,500
Redcar and Cleveland	1,924,906
Rochdale	2,752,552
Rotherham	4,682,176
Salford	4,106,268
Sandwell	2,996,015
Sefton	3,272,583
Sheffield	7,726,169
Solihull	289,843
South Tyneside	2,160,954
Southwark	3,888,492
St Helens	2,029,358
Stockport	979,500
Stockton-on-Tees	2,579,071
Stoke-on-Trent	2,894,802
Sunderland	3,943,450
Tameside	917,000
Thurrock	825,560
Tower Hamlets	4,705,059
Walsall	1,191,000
Waltham Forest	3,451,775
Wandsworth	2,762,970
Westminster	1,065,504
Wigan	776,500
Wirral	3,489,364
Wolverhampton	2,287,276
TOTAL	219,148,018

Annex B

Main Features of the Grant

1. Excellence In Cities (EIC)

The EiC programme is implemented through local partnerships focusing on the needs and aspirations of individual pupils and their parents. It currently involves 58 authorities in the main programme. In addition, there are now 24 Excellence Clusters (see paragraph 2 below).

There are three phases of the EiC programme. Phase 1 began in September 1999 with 24 authorities, Phase 2 in September 2000 with a further 23 authorities and Phase 3 from September 2001 with 10 new authorities, together with North Sefton. Additionally, in 2001 Excellence Clusters were introduced as was the EiC Primary Extension Project (in Phase 1 EiC areas only).

The three phases cover some 1000 secondary schools and over 1000 primary schools.

Key strands of the Excellence in Cities programme are:

- Learning Mentors;
- Learning Support Units (LSUs);
- City Learning Centres (see paragraph 3 below);
- Beacon and Specialist Schools;
- EiC Action Zones;
- extended opportunities for gifted and talented pupils; and
- Excellence Challenge and school leadership.

In the primary pilot the key strands are:

- Learning Mentors;
- Primary LSUs; and
- Enhanced opportunities for gifted and talented pupils.

The programme provides:

- Over 3,500 Learning Mentors appointed in secondary and primary schools;
- 105 City Learning Centres (of which 80 are already open);
- Some 500 LSUs in secondary schools plus 60 LSUs in primary schools;
- Enhanced opportunities for gifted and talented children across all EiC areas;
- 102 Excellence in Cities Action Zones;
- 446 Beacon Schools and 282 Specialist Schools in EiC areas;
- Opportunities for more pupils to set their sights at Higher Education through the Excellence Challenge.

2. Excellence Clusters

Clusters are designed to bring the benefits of the Excellence in Cities programme to smaller pockets of deprivation. Like Excellence in Cities, they focus on some of the most deprived areas of the country, using a structured programme designed to raise standards.

Clusters benefit from extra resources to provide the three core strands of the Excellence in Cities programme:

- extended opportunities for gifted and talented pupils;
- access to full time Learning Mentors for pupils who need them in schools in the EiC areas; and
- LSUs to tackle disruption.

A fourth strand of funding is available to target particular local issues, as identified by the schools in each Cluster.

3 City Learning Centres (CLCs) are a key element of the EiC programme. They are located mainly on secondary school sites and provide learning opportunities based on state of the art information and communication technology (“ICT”) for pupils at a network of local schools and for the wider community.

CLCs enhance learning across the whole curriculum by:

- Providing courses and opportunities for teachers, pupils and the community;
- Delivering services and outreach support for a wide network of local schools;
- Providing study support and extension activities for gifted and talented pupils;
- Cascading best practice amongst the local network of schools; and
- Acting as test beds for innovation and new ways of teaching and learning.

They will also open outside school hours to offer opportunities to the local community to access a CLC's advanced ICT facilities.



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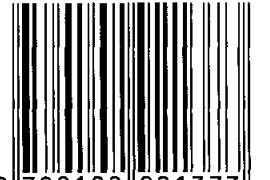
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