

19 January 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Blackpool Borough Council  
Derby City Council  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Somerset County Council  
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 Phase 2 Grant (2017-18 [DfE GR1000358] MHCLG S31\_31/3179)**

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 further 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 Finance 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, Sarah Lewis, 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 is £72m, over three years, 2017-18 to 2019-20. As set out previously, we expect a substantial proportion of that money to be channelled through the relevant top tier local authorities.

For this year, we are making funds available to local authorities in the form of two non-ring-fenced grants. We paid the first of these in October 2017 and will make a second payment in January. For this January payment, we intend to vary the amounts payable to each OA to take account of the expenditure already made or

committed, activities already started, and the new activity proposed in the local delivery plans. We have discussed and agreed these specific amounts with the DfE Head of Delivery in each OA, who in turn works closely with local partners. It is our intention that variation in the amounts paid to different OAs will be balanced in subsequent funding rounds. A total of £3.77m will be paid in January 2018 to the local authorities listed in Annex A.

### **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;
- establish pilot interventions and programmes focussing on areas which might include (but would not be limited to) the home learning environment, teacher workload, teacher recruitment, children and young people's mental health, training for SEND practitioners, pathways to employment for young people, and speech, language and communication needs in early years.
- Employ programme managers and other staff to work on the OA programme, when agreed with the Department for Education

The local authority may also use the grant to pay for the salary of the local project manager, who is in most cases being employed through the local authority, and funding the "new burden" of administering this grant.

### **Payment arrangements**

We intend to make future payments quarterly across the financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20, with the exact amounts depending in each case on the needs identified in the OA delivery plans for the relevant period.

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 Chief Finance Officer of all participating local authorities, Directors of Children's Services, Opportunity Areas Heads of Delivery, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

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 be 'S.L.', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Lewis  
Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education

Annex A

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

### **Opportunity Areas Phase 2 GRANT DETERMINATION 2017-18: No 31/3179**

The Minister of State for Education (Justine Greening), 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 Phase 2 Grant Determination (2017-18) [No31/3179].

#### **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.



Signed by authority of the Minister of State for Education

Sarah Lewis, Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education  
19 January 2018

<b>Authorities to which grant is to be paid</b>	<b>Opportunity Area</b>	<b>Amount of grant to be paid</b>
Blackpool Borough Council	Blackpool	£650,000
Derby City Council	Derby	£600,000
North Yorkshire County Council	North Yorkshire Coast	£570,000
Somerset County Council	W Somerset	£200,000
Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Bradford	£350,000
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Doncaster	£350,000
Cambridgeshire County Council	Fenland & E Cambs	£250,000
East Sussex County Council	Hastings	£50,000
Suffolk County Council	Ipswich	£250,000
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	Stoke-on-Trent	£350,000
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Oldham	£150,000