



# Support for recovery from exceptional emergencies

## Guidance

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## Background and general information

1. These guidance notes set out the sort of exceptional circumstances where Communities and Local Government (CLG) would consider providing financial support to local authorities in addition to the Bellwin Scheme, to support recovery efforts and the sort of costs that might be met in those circumstances.
2. General guidance on recovery funding arrangements can be found in the National Recovery Guidance:  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response/recovery\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response/recovery_guidance.aspx)  
And in the Emergency Response and Recovery guidance:  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response.aspx)
3. CLG's community recovery funding arrangements may be activated in the event of an exceptional emergency which has a major impact on communities. There is no automatic entitlement to financial assistance; ministers will decide whether to activate the arrangements based on the impact of a particular emergency and whether funding is available from within existing departmental resource.
4. Local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the cost of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies, and should keep their reserves and insurance arrangements under review.
5. Any funding made available will be to help meet some of the cost incurred by local authorities in supporting affected communities during the recovery phase; such costs must be over and above those normally incurred by local authorities and outside those met by other funding schemes such as Bellwin.
6. The Bellwin scheme exists to cover local authorities' costs of immediate action to safeguard life and property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience to the inhabitants, in the event of an emergency. Arrangements for funding other recovery costs have been put in place by DCSF, Defra and DfT – these arrangements will also be at ministerial discretion and may or may not be activated at the same time as the Community Recovery Fund. Local authorities can access information about these arrangements via the National Recovery Guidance and Emergency Response and Recovery guidance: [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx)

## Qualifying emergencies

7. CLG's recovery funding arrangements would be activated at ministerial discretion in the event of exceptional emergencies that have a major impact on communities.
8. Factors likely to be taken into account by the Department when deciding whether to activate the arrangements include whether one or more local area has experienced significant damage to residential properties or significant disruption to communities, the displacement of residents for more than a week and / or a significant impact on or breakdown of local community services.

## Provision of the fund

9. Any funding scheme established under the community recovery arrangements could provide both capital and revenue payments. Payments would be made via a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Section 31 grant would include a clawback in relation to capital to ensure that any capital condition was enforceable.
10. Payments could be made to any local authority as defined by Section 33 of the Local Government Act 2003, however, we would expect that in most cases payments would go to district rather than county authorities in two-tier areas, as districts would carry out the community-level activities which would be addressed by the fund.
11. The amount made available, and the proportion of capital and revenue funds made available would be dependent on the impact of a particular emergency on local communities (based on an assessment of need), and the total resource which that department was able to make available at the time.
12. The indicators of need would be dependent on the impact of a particular emergency but would most likely include households affected or displaced. CLG would consult affected local authorities and the Local Government Association (LGA) on the proposed indicators to be used for a particular scheme.

## The reporting process

13. The department will consider whether to activate the recovery funding arrangements based on reports provided by local authorities via the Government Offices (GOs) – firstly through the Common Recognised Information Picture (CRIP) and then through the local:central recovery reporting template. More information on both can be found in the National Recovery Guidance:  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response/recovery\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response/recovery_guidance.aspx)
14. The GOs will act as the main point of contact with local authorities – ensuring they know what is required and responding to enquiries.

## On what sort of things could LAs spend any grant they receive?

15. Local authorities would generally have flexibility to spend any allocation they received as they see fit subject to any capital condition attached to the grant. However, we would expect the grant to be used for some of the following purposes:
  - activities and facilities to support affected communities e.g. for children and young people
  - support payments to affected households
  - purchase and provision of new household items (e.g. fridges, cookers)
  - temporary accommodation (where not covered by the Bellwin scheme)
  - increased local authority staff costs for supporting the recovery of affected communities, over and above the usual activities (where not covered by the Bellwin scheme)
  - other priorities set through consultation with affected householders

Local authorities will report on the progress of the recovery effort through the local:central recovery reporting template.