



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Neil O'Brien MP
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling
Up, the Union and Constitution**
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London

26 May 2022

Dear Neil,

Our committee is, as you might expect, interested in following the progress of the government's 'levelling up' policy. To this end, we would like to assess progress in relation to the many grants and funding pots which are a major element of the initiative as implemented thus far.

Such grants are allocated by DLUHC and other departments to some localities but not others. Given the number of funding streams involved, it is impossible for those outside DLUHC to assess what precisely is going on. The levelling up white paper itself had a sub-heading entitled 'The Complex Funding Landscape'. Consequently, the Committee would like to receive an analysis of the allocation (thus far, that is up to the end of April 2022) of all the grants referred to in the white paper. These include:

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Community Ownership Fund
- Levelling Up Fund
- UK Community Renewal Fund
- Getting Building Fund
- Towns Fund
- Transforming Cities Fund
- Local Growth Fund
- Coastal Communities Fund/Coastal Revival Fund
- Future High Streets Fund

What the Committee would like is a table showing each local authority in England (or the UK where relevant) and the amounts allocated in total (if any) from each grant shown in the list above (up to 30 April 2022). Where allocations relate to more than one council, a separate line can be added to the list showing the two (or more) councils in receipt of funding as if they were a separate entity. The purpose of this table is to detail the allocations to, or to organisations within, each local authority's area. That is, including all allocations whether they were to the council itself or another local institution. We would also like to see sub-totals for the four nations of the UK and regions within England.

We would envisage a subsequent annual analysis being undertaken in the same format.



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Separately, the Committee would also like a table (laid out in the same way as the first one) for every council in England (or the UK where relevant) which has put in a bid for any of the grants in the above list and which did not receive an allocation.

Given the admitted complexity of this array of grants and funding pots, clarity is of the essence. This is why the Committee needs to see each of the grants allocated to each local authority in a single table rather than, for example, a set of separate documents each formatted differently. With luck, such an analysis already exists or, if not, it should be helpful to the Government itself.

One final question: in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget last year a British Business Bank Regional Investment Fund was announced. Has any progress been made in allocating the Fund and if so, could the Committee also have an authority-by-authority analysis of where allocations have so far been made?

The white paper mentions many other grants and funding streams. These resource pots (or as many as can be separately identified) are included as an Annex to this letter. Not all are within DLUHC's control, but all are intended to contribute to the achievement of levelling up. While it would doubtless be cumbersome to do a full-scale authority-by-authority analysis of all these funding streams in the first instance, it would be good to have a full list of all central government grants and funding pots (within the control of all departments) which are being (or will soon be) used to deliver the levelling up policy. For example, the DDCMS/Arts Council's 'Priority Places and Levelling Up for Culture Places' scheme and the Department for Transport allocations to combined authorities to achieve transport-related levelling up objectives.

I realise that responding to this letter may involve significant work for the Department. With luck, all the relevant data are in simple-to-access spreadsheets and thus it can be brought together easily by your statisticians.

It would be helpful to receive these analyses by 31 May.

With best wishes,

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee



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Annex:

Other funding allocation mechanisms referred to in the white paper as part of the policy tools being used to achieve levelling up:

- British Business Bank Regional Investment Funds
- Global Britain Investment Fund
- Capability and Innovation Fund
- Regional Angels Programme
- Automotive Transformation Fund
- Medicines and Diagnostic Manufacturing Transformation Fund
- Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Support Scheme
- Creative Scale Up Programme
- UK Games Fund
- Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage fund
- Advanced Nuclear Fund
- Strength in Places Fund
- UK Seafood Fund
- Freeports
- Integrated Transport Block
- Highways Maintenance Block
- Brownfield and Infrastructure Fund
- English Cities Fund
- Volunteering Futures Fund
- Cultural Investment Fund
- Levelling Up Home Building Fund [New]
- Home Upgrade Grant
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
- Boiler Upgrade Scheme
- Safer Streets Fund
- Brownfield Land Release Fund
- Project Gigabit
- Sustainable Warmth Fund
- Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas Fund