



Department
for Transport

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To:

Local Transport Authority Chief Executives

By email.

13 April 2021

Dear Chief Executive

Grant Award Agreement: Bus capacity work

I am writing to you to set out the details of your £100,000 Local Transport Authority Bus Capacity (Revenue) Funding allocation following your request for this funding to be awarded to your authority.

Purpose of this Grant

As covered in the letter from Baroness Vere to local authority leaders and Metro Mayors on 15 March 2021, the Department of Transport offered £100,000 in capacity support to those Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) that requested it.

The purpose of this grant is to support LTAs in developing local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS). In particular, it is being offered to help LTAs towards the development of their Enhanced Partnership Schemes (EPS) or franchising scheme, and Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) work, and to meet the timescales that go alongside that work.

Grant Details

This grant is being paid based on the understanding that LTAs need additional capacity and capability support to progress their plans on buses as outlined above. The grant covers revenue expenditure for activities relating to these plans, as covered in the NBS and any subsequent guidance from the Department.

The Department anticipates that this funding will be used for:

- recruitment of additional LTA staff to undertake the work required;
- procurement of consultants to support the work required;
- training of new and existing staff to boost their capabilities on relevant bus policy and delivery;

- other activities to support the development of LTA bus plans.

The Department has an aim to see the development of longer term in-house capabilities on bus issues across all LTAs. LTAs should take this into account when using this, and any future, capacity funding. Where consultants are used, the LTA should endeavour to include knowledge exchange as part of the consultancy process.

The Department will contact LTAs to collect information on how this funding has been spent (or will be spent), as well as any other information to support the Department on bus capacity issues. This information will help the Department to evaluate bus capacity issues in LTAs, and to shape future funding rounds.

This offer of grant funding is made on the understanding that the authority has regard to the national objectives of the funding, as outlined above.

Should circumstances change and the LTA no longer has need for the funding, or a part of the funding, to undertake the work above, they should contact the Department to arrange reimbursement (at the email address below).

Further Capacity Funding Support

Beyond this initial allocation of capacity funding, the Department intends to offer further capacity support from the same funding pot to LTAs that have committed to follow a statutory route (EPS or franchising) or an improvement to a current EPS. The deadline for making this commitment, via a statutory notice, is by the 30 June 2021. LTAs should contact the Department (at the email address below) with a link to their statutory notice so we can determine eligibility for further capacity funding.

The amount of any further LTA capacity funding support in 2021/22 (if any) will be linked to the needs of the authority, taking into account current capacity in the LTA to deliver their plans for bus improvements and any other government transport capacity funding that the LTA has been allocated. The Department will outline the details on further capacity funding in the coming weeks, as well as further details about other bus capability initiatives such as the Bus Centre of Excellence.

I attach a grant determination for the 2021/22 financial year.

All correspondence about this grant should go to buses@dft.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Catriona Henderson

LOCAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY BUS CAPACITY (REVENUE) GRANT DETERMINATION 2021-22: No 31/5509.

The Minister of State for Transport (“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 Local Transport Authority Bus Capacity Grant Determination (2021-22) [No 31/5509].

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 (£100,000 per authority).

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 Transport

Catriona Henderson
Deputy Director, Buses, Taxis and Light Rail Division, Department for Transport

13 April 2021