



Department
for Transport

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To:

Local Transport Authority Chief Executives

By email

27 July 2021

Dear Chief Executive

Grant Award Agreement: Bus capacity work

I am writing to you to set out the details of the second tranche of the Local Transport Authority Bus Capacity (Revenue) Funding allocation.

Thank you for letting us know that your authority has published a notification of intent for an Enhanced Partnership Scheme (EPS) and/or bus franchising. It is encouraging to see that all LTAs are engaging with the Bus Back Better strategy, and we look forward to working with you to support the development of your Bus Service Improvement Plan and the delivery of these plans.

We have now released the second tranche of this grant to those LTAs that have committed to an EPS and/or franchising, except Combined Authorities that are already in receipt of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) capacity support. ICTS capacity funding was inclusive of funding to support bus reform plans, as set out in the Chief Secretary's letter to those authorities.

The value of the grant awards to each LTA are shown in the annex.

Purpose of this Grant

The purpose of this grant is to support LTAs in developing local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS) and is being offered to help LTAs towards the development of their EPS or franchising scheme, and Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) work, and to meet the timescales that go alongside that work. It is non-legally binding, as required in Section 31 grants.

Grant Details

This grant is additional to the flat rate £100k that we allocated to every LTA in the first tranche of bus capacity funding. The grant amounts for the second tranche of funding have been based on LTA population and Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This is to reflect

the scale of the issues across LTA areas, and the fact that buses are relied upon more by residents in deprived areas. However, we did set a minimum grant of £50k to ensure that all LTAs had additional support to develop their plans.

The 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 outlined 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; and
- other activities to support the development of LTA bus plans.

LTAs should consider how they can use their funding efficiently and avoid duplication of effort. For instance, LTAs could work within their sub-national transport body (STB) to pool some of their capacity funding with other authorities to address common issues or to coordinate work with bus operator partners at a wider geography. Or to work with neighbouring LTAs to address cross-boundary solutions across wider travel to work areas.

The Department has an aim to see the development of in-house capabilities on bus issues across all LTAs. LTAs should take this into account when using this capacity funding. Where consultants are used, the LTA should endeavour to include knowledge exchange as part of the consultancy process. The NBS included a commitment to develop a Bus Centre of Excellence to help tackle the longer-term development of bus capabilities in LTAs and bus operators. We plan to say more about that in the near future.

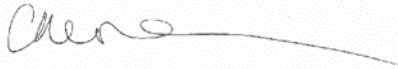
We intend to contact LTAs in due course to collect information on how this funding (both tranches of funding) have been spent (or will be spent), as well as any other information to enable the Department to evaluate bus capacity issues in LTAs. It is important for DfT to understand how the funding for capacity and capability has been used to inform our future thinking on capacity support.

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).

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

Should you have any questions about this grant, please email bsip@dft.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Catriona Henderson

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Annex – LTA payments

Bedford Borough Council	50,980
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	59,696
Blackpool Borough Council	58,636
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	177,498
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	50,000
Brighton and Hove Council	124,481
Buckinghamshire County Council	200,103
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority	424,116
Central Bedfordshire Council	91,067
Cheshire East Council	147,485
Cheshire West and Chester Council	141,565
City of York Council	50,361
Cornwall Council	323,237
Cumbria County Council	251,909
Derby City Council	117,975
Derbyshire County Council	410,267
Devon County Council	402,756
Dorset Council	157,306
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	129,728
East Sussex County Council	278,583
Essex County Council	776,040
Gloucestershire County Council	285,331
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	-
Hampshire County Council	630,196
Herefordshire Council	65,732
Hertfordshire County Council	546,329
Isle of Wight Council	50,000
Kent County Council	878,934
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	145,388
Lancashire County Council	701,839
Leicester City Council	204,002
Leicestershire County Council	296,881

Lincolnshire County Council	402,267
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	-
Luton Borough Council	95,638
Medway Borough Council	128,671
Milton Keynes Council	102,333
Norfolk County Council	503,340
North East Combined Authority	-
North East Lincolnshire Council	55,943
North Lincolnshire Council	56,367
North Northamptonshire	154,450
North of Tyne Combined Authority	-
North Somerset Council	62,939
North Yorkshire County Council	274,187
Nottingham City Council	197,465
Nottinghamshire County Council	427,618
Oxfordshire County Council	278,578
Plymouth City Council	124,418
Portsmouth City Council	95,593
Reading Borough Council	50,000
Rutland County Council	50,000
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority	-
Shropshire Council	135,856
Slough Borough Council	50,000
Somerset County Council	281,041
Southampton City Council	121,602
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	62,056
Staffordshire County Council	438,538
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	138,147
Suffolk County Council	388,737
Surrey County Council	494,243
Swindon Borough Council	75,602
Tees Valley Combined Authority	-
Telford and Wrekin Council	65,059
Thurrock Council	58,783
Torbay Borough Council	50,000
Transport for the North East	1,315,575
Warrington Borough Council	68,511
Warwickshire County Council	262,632
West Berkshire Council	50,000
West Midlands Combined Authority	-
West Northamptonshire Council	173,852
West of England Combined Authority	-
West Sussex County Council	403,486
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	-

Wiltshire Council	206,521
Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council	50,000
Wokingham Borough Council	50,000
Worcestershire County Council	287,105

LOCAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY BUS CAPACITY (REVENUE) GRANT DETERMINATION 2021-22: No 31/5650.

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 31/5650].

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.

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

26 July 2021