

Arrangements for disseminating the Local Government Finance Settlement 2007/08 information

Introduction

1. This paper provides details of what information DCLG are intending to publish for the 2007/08 Local Government Finance Settlement, and how.

Contact Information for Local Authorities

2. DCLG hold a database containing the following contact information for authorities:
 - General contact telephone number
 - General contact fax number
 - General contact email address
 - Chief Executive's name
 - Chief Executive's email address
 - Chief Finance Officer's name
 - Chief Finance Officer's email address
 - Other nominated officer's name
 - Other nominated officer's email address
3. Authorities were asked to amend this information in a letter sent on 1st August, together with the August Data Letter. Authorities are reminded that they should email Karen Sussex at karen.sussex@communities.gsi.gov.uk if they require further changes to their contacts.

Information to be published

4. This year we will be publishing the 2007/08 Settlement for consultation. We are required to do this because, by statute, we must consult on the total of Revenue Support Grant and to notify certain bodies of the amount of redistributed business rates and the basis of distribution. Because, further, an element of the calculation of the total of redistributed business rates (the 'Distributable Amount') must be the September 2006 RPI, we were not able to consult on the 2007/08 split of Formula Grant last year. However, in announcing the 2006/07 settlement, Phil Woolas, the Minister for Local Government, stated that we were also giving "firm forward financial allocations" for 2007/08. It is not therefore intended that the information published for consultation will differ from that published as the Provisional 2007/08 Settlement at the time of the 2006/07 Settlement, except potentially with regard to the

proposed merger of Devon & Somerset Fire¹. In order to enable Local Authorities to have as much time as possible to study this information, we hope to publish the 2007/08 Settlement information around mid- to late-November.

5. As in earlier years the Secretary of State will fully consider any representations made in response to this consultation. However, in light of the consultation on multi-year settlements in December 2004 and the consultation on the Provisional 2007/08 Settlement last year, the Secretary of State's policy is only to make changes to the provisional 2007/08 Settlement (which will be published for consultation in mid- to late- November) in exceptional circumstances.

2007/08 Settlement information

Subject Line of Emails

6. In order to enable local authorities to set up rules to automatically forward these emails to other officers as required, all of the emails sent by the Department providing details on the Local Government Finance Settlement will have the following title (subject heading):

Local Government Finance Settlement 2007/08

Please note that it is only possible to send the email to 3 officers per authority (the chief executive, the chief finance officer and one other nominated officer) since we will be sending individualised emails to each of these, containing data relating to their own authority.

Headline information

7. As soon as the announcement on the 2007/08 settlement has occurred we will upload the first set of information onto our website. All of the information will be linked from the following address:

<http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0708/grant.htm>

8. We are intending to include the following items in this first set of information:
 - the consultation paper;
 - the draft Local Government Finance Report;
 - the draft Police Grant Report;

¹ DCLG are currently consulting on the revocation of the Devon Fire scheme. It is likely that we will consult on two Settlement options: (i) assuming that the full Devon and Somerset Fire merger goes ahead or (ii) assuming that only a shadow authority is created for 2007/08. This will only affect the following authorities:

- Somerset County Council; and
- Devon Fire and Rescue Authority

All other authorities allocations will be unaffected by this merger.

- a paper explaining how the floor and ceiling scheme for 2007/08 works; and
- a paper showing how the adjusted RNFs and grants for 2006/07 have been calculated.

These documents will be provided in Adobe Acrobat format, which will ensure that it can be downloaded easily. The following data will also be provided:

- key statistics tables:
 - Key Table 1: Formula Grant, Special and Specific Grants
 - Key Table 2: Specific and Special Grants
 - Key Table 3: Adjustments to Totals
- headline allocation table providing for each authority the mid-2007 population projections, taxbase, RSG and NNDR, Police Grant and Formula Grant;
- changes in grant allocations: 2007/08 compared to Adjusted 2006/07
- Breakdown of formula grant
- 2007/08 Special and Specific Grant information

These tables will be provided in both Adobe Acrobat format, and as Excel spreadsheets.

9. Excel models will also be provided for the calculation of grant and floors and ceilings for the relevant groups of authorities for both years.

Emails

10. As soon as this information has been placed on our website we will send emails to authorities notifying them that the information is available from the website and providing the following summary information for their authority:

- RSG for 2007/08
- NNDR for 2007/08;
- Police Grant including Metropolitan Police Special Payment for 2007/08;
- Formula Grant for 2007/08;
- Adjusted RSG plus NNDR for 2006/07;
- Adjusted Police Grant including Metropolitan Police Special Payment for 2006/07;
- Adjusted Formula Grant for 2006/07;
- Increase in Formula Grant compared to the 2006/07 Adjusted Formula Grant in both £ million and %;
- Detailed breakdown by major service block, and sub-service block of the 2007/08 and adjusted 2006/07 RNFs;

- Mid-2007 resident population projection; and
- Taxbase in Band-D equivalents.

Detailed Individual Authority Tables

11. We will then start to place the detailed data tables for individual authorities onto the website. They provide the following information:

- Table 1: 2007/08 Formula Spending Shares Indicator Data
- Table 2: 2007/08 Provisional Settlement: Key Financial Information
- Table 3: Annotated Chapter 4 of the Local Government Finance Report 2007/08
- Table 4: Annotated Chapter 5 of the Local Government Finance Report 2007/08

12. These tables will only be available on an individual authority basis in HTML format.

Capital Financing Data Tables

13. Once these tables have been placed on the website we will begin to place the detailed capital financing tables on the website. These tables provide the following information:-

- Table 5A: Calculation of 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 5B: Derivation of 1 April 1990 Actual Outstanding Debt
- Table 6A: Derivation of 2007/08 Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6B: Derivation of 2007/08 amount of Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) admissible for HRA subsidy
- Table 6C: Derivation of 2006/07 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6D: Derivation of 2005/06 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6E: Derivation of 2004/05 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6F: Derivation of 2003/04 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6G: Derivation of 2002/03 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6H: Derivation of 2001/02 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6I: Derivation of 2000/01 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6J: Derivation of 1999/2000 Credit Approval figure to be used 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6K: Derivation of 1998/99 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF
- Table 6L: Derivation of 1997/98 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF

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| Table 6M: | Derivation of 1996/97 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |
| Table 6N: | Derivation of 1995/96 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |
| Table 6O: | Derivation of 1994/95 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |
| Table 6P: | Derivation of 1993/94 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |
| Table 6Q: | Derivation of 1992/93 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |
| Table 6R: | Derivation of 1991/92 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |
| Table 6S: | Derivation of 1990/91 Credit Approval figure to be used for 2007/08 Capital Financing RNF |

Analysis of change tables

14. Once the emails have been sent to authorities, we then hope to add to the website the Excel spreadsheets and Adobe Acrobat files showing the analysis of change for RNFs and formula grant before floor damping for 2007/08. **It may not be possible to publish this material on the day of the announcement.**
15. The amount of material that will be available on the day of the announcement depends on exactly when the announcement takes place. The later the announcement the less likely that all the information will be available on the day. The information described in paragraphs 8 to 10 will be available regardless of the exact timing of the announcement.

Paper copies

16. DCLG are not intending to provide paper copies to authorities of the Settlement information.

Settlement Information

17. It is likely that the Settlement debate will take place in late-January/early-February. We generally provide Local Authorities a copy of information on the Government's final proposals a few days before the debate.
18. Again, we will adopt a similar procedure to that described in paragraphs 8 to 15 to disseminate this data.

Detailed Information for Local Authority Analysts

19. Analytical material will be provided to Local Authority Associations (LAAs) at Consultation and at Settlement by email. We will send an email to our main LAA contacts² with the following data files attached:

- Education Indicators (EDU078.*)
- Personal Social Services (PSS) Indicators (PSS078.*)
- Police Indicators (POL078.*)
- Fire Indicators (FIRE078.*)
- Fire Index Indicators (INDEXF1.*)
- Highway Maintenance Indicators (HM078.*)
- Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) (EPCS078.*)

20. We will also send the following additional information:

- 2007/08 RNFs by sub-block for each authority
- Adjusted 2006/07 RNFs by sub-block for each authority
- Basic grant data for 2007/08 - RSG, NNDR, Police Grant, Formula Grant
- Adjusted 2006/07 grant data

Each of the above files will be sent in Excel format.

21. In addition we will also send a copy of the Excel floor and ceiling models under cover of this email.

22. We will send separate emails enclosing the 2007/08 RNF model and the 2007/08 grant model.

23. Please note that the data contained in this email should only be used for checking the DCLG's calculations and for research work on RNFs. This is because DCLG do not own the copyright on this data, some of which is purchased from commercial companies.

24. If contacts forward this email onto others then this warning should be repeated. Please note that in general it is not necessary for all local authorities to receive the data contained in these emails as the equivalent data for their own authority will be available via the DCLG website. If you do forward the email (which usually comes in four parts) then you should forward all of it.

² The current list of main LAA contacts is given at Annex A. Please email karen.sussex@communities.gsi.gov.uk if you wish to be added to or removed from this list.

List of Main LAA Contacts who will receive data email

| Contact | Email Address |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alan Steele | alan.steele@hounslow.gov.uk |
| Bob Whetton | bob.whetton@btinternet.com |
| Ciaran Guilfoyle | ciaran.guilfoyle@leicester.gov.uk |
| Colin Crofts | colin.crofts@westminster.gov.uk |
| David Andrews | david.andrews@southend.gov.uk |
| Jenny Cole | JSCole@somerset.gov.uk |
| Jess Laing | Jess.Laing@rbkc.gov.uk |
| Jim Cassin | j.cassin@chester.gov.uk |
| Joshua Amahwe | joshuaamahwe@barnsley.gov.uk |
| Mike Heiser | mike.heiser@lga.gov.uk |
| Neil Wilcox | neil.wilcox@heasig.com |
| Patricia Samuel | PatriciaSamuel@barnsley.gov.uk |
| Paul Woods | Paul.Woods@newcastle.gov.uk |
| Philip Walker | Philip.Walker@derby.gov.uk |
| Steve Lord | Stephen.Lord@alg.gov.uk |
| Steve Potts | Steve.Potts@eastsussex.gov.uk |
| Steve Powell | Steve_Powell@birmingham.gov.uk |
| Steve Wellings | Steve.Wellings@wrekin.gov.uk |
| Tim Stretton | Tim.Stretton@westsussex.gov.uk |