



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:
Oldham Office
11 Church Lane
Oldham OL1 3AN
Tel-0161 626 5779

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01140740

11 November 2014

Dear Carolyn

Re; Local Welfare Provision

Further to my previous letter regarding the above; please find enclosed a copy of a reply I have received from the DCLG in response to my letter on the Council's behalf.

I hope this is helpful. If not, or if you wish to respond to the reply, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Oldham Office
11 Church Lane
Oldham
OL1 3AN

Kris Hopkins MP
Minister for Local Government

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3460
Fax: 020 7035 0018
E-Mail: kris.hopkins@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

Our Ref: 400038
Your Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01140740

Dear Michael,

04 NOV 2014

Thank you for your letter of 3 October enclosing one to you from the Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions, the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, dated 24 September, about your concerns on how local welfare provision will be funded in future.

As Iain explained, from 2015/16, it was intended that local welfare provision would be funded from general grant to Local Government, instead of an identifiable sum being made available specifically for this purpose. Local authorities would continue to decide what local provision to provide and at what cost, as they are best placed to understand the needs of their local communities.

This decision was recently challenged in judicial review proceedings which have been settled. The Government has committed to making a fresh decision as to how local welfare provision should be funded in 2015/16.

The Department for Work and Pensions are currently carrying out a review into how local welfare provision has been used in 2013/14 and its anticipated use in 2014/15.

On 10 October, this Department published a joint DCLG-DWP-HMT consultation paper which sets out the Government's proposed options on how local welfare provision could be funded in 2015/2016. We particularly welcome views and responses from local government and from any other interested person or group. The web link to the consultation is set out below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/362995/141010_Consultation_on_how_LWP_should_be_funded_in_15-16.pdf

The Government has committed to analysing the responses to the consultation alongside the findings of the on-going DWP's review into the existing provision. The findings from both the review and consultation will help to inform future funding levels.

We will make a decision on funding for 2015/16 in time for the provisional local government finance settlement in December 2014.


KRIS HOPKINS MP