



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

To Council Leaders in England

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

***Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government***

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Dear Leader,

ALLOCATIONS OF ADDITIONAL LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING

Local government plays a vital role in our national response to COVID-19. I am continually grateful for the work you do together with central government to trace and contain outbreaks, support communities and business, and get the whole country through this challenging period.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 12 October of new financial support for all local authorities, I am today confirming the allocations to individual councils of that funding. I have been clear that Government will stand behind councils and ensure they have the resources required to respond to the Pandemic. In order to meet this commitment, we have provided an unprecedented range of support. The Prime Minister's announcement brings direct funding for spending pressures to £6.4 billion, this includes £4.6 billion in un-ringfenced funding, £1.1 billion from the Infection Control Fund, £300 million to support Test and Trace, as well as funding allocated to councils from the new Local Alert Level system and a number of grants to support communities and vulnerable people. In total, almost £30 billion has been committed to local areas to support councils, businesses and communities.

As with the previous funding package announced in July, Government will use the COVID-19 Relative-Needs Formula to determine funding allocations. This takes account of population, and deprivation as well as adjusting for the varying cost of delivering services across the country. In addition, we have taken account of the funding local authorities have already received relative to their forecast needs. Recognising that all local areas are facing unprecedented pressures especially as we head into winter every local authority will receive at least £100,000. This approach will ensure the funds are distributed in a way that balances the need to support all areas across England, whilst maximising efficiency and targeting resources where they are most needed.

While the additional grant will once again be un-ringfenced, recognising that local authorities are best placed to determine local priorities, I would expect you to continue to prioritise adult social care, children's services, public health services, household waste services, shielding the clinically extremely vulnerable, homelessness and rough sleeping, domestic abuse, managing excess deaths (including costs relating to additional mortuary capacity) and support for re-opening the country.

Alongside this, to address the ongoing challenges council leisure centres are facing, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will introduce a new £100 million fund to support centres which are most

in need. This complements the existing Sales, Fees and Charges scheme established by the Government which supports leisure centres directly run by local councils. Further details on the scheme will be set out in due course by DCMS.

You will also be aware that the Department of Health and Social Care has separately announced up to £465 million of funding to support areas moving up to a higher alert level to ensure they can take the additional steps required as a result of the necessary measures put in place to contain the virus, working alongside NHS Test and Trace. Alongside this, Government will continue to back businesses, for instance through the Job Support Scheme. With this comprehensive further support, I hope you will agree with me that we are putting our communities in a strong position to get through the challenges of the next few months.

The Chancellor has today also announced additional funding to allow councils to support businesses in high-alert level areas which are not legally closed, but which are severely impacted by the restrictions on socialising. The funding councils will receive will be based on the number of hospitality, hotel, B&B, and leisure businesses in their area.

I recognise this is a challenging time for us all, but it's thanks to your efforts and expertise at a local level that we have come this far and I want to thank you and your staff for your hard work and commitment to continuing to serve your communities. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we come through this pandemic. What we have achieved so far through the strength of partnership between national and local government gives me confidence we can face the unique challenges this winter brings together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP