

From: The Minister

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/O March 2015

JACQUI,

I am writing to update you on the budgetary position for 2015/16 and the amount to transfer to Local Government from 1 April 2016. You will be aware of the difficulties the Northern Ireland Executive has faced and the severity of the cuts that Executive Departments have had to agree. Within the context of this difficult budgetary position and following a stringent review of the programmes my Department provides and the services it supports, I have now arrived at what I consider to be the most appropriate financial solution for the 2015/16 year and for the budget to transfer in April 2016.

I appreciate you will be anxious to know about which projects my Department will be able to support in your area during 2015/16. I can only reassure you that I my decisions take full recognition of the value of these projects and appreciation of the positive contribution they make to some of the most disadvantaged people in our society.

I know that you also have concerns about what reduction there will be in the amounts transferring to you for 2016/17. It is anticipated that the level of spending across my Department during 2015/16 for those services for which responsibility is transferring to Local Government will be in the region of £56.5m. Therefore the budget to transfer to Councils from 1 April 2016 will be £56.5m. I have previously declared my commitment to the Reform of Local Government and in recognition of that I have decided to protect the overall budget to transfer from any further cuts from April 2016.

In protecting this amount I have directed that any further potential cuts to my Departments overall budget from April 2016 will be absorbed by my Department. I attach the financial allocation model based on this figure which results in the amount of £3.919m transferring to Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council.

I hope that my decision will enable you to effectively plan for and deliver regeneration and community development across your areas, and of eaurse my Officials and I are committed to engaging with you and assisting you with your planning and decision making process.



When I have finalised decisions about the work programme for 2015/16 my Officials will inform the relevant stakeholders, including Councils. For my part I will continue to engage with Councillors and their Officials to allow meaningful discussion and to address areas of concern. This engagement process has proven useful thus far and I expect to have met with all remaining Councils in the coming weeks.

Going forward I fully expect the good relationships between my Department and Local Government to continue to develop particularly in the area of community planning which Councils are leading on. I have established a community planning group in my Department and Sharron Carlin, who will be your single point of contact for community planning, will contact you shortly to arrange a meeting to discuss how we can best work with you in this area.

I am copying this letter to the representative bodies of Council Chief Executives and Local Government representatives, SOLACE and NILGA, and to Ministers Durkan and Hamilton. I would be grateful if you would ensure Presiding Councillors and deputy Presiding Councillors are made aware of its content.

Yours sincerely

MERVYN STOREY MLA Minister for Social Development

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	Tackling Dis	Tackling Disadvantage Component	mponent	Physical Reger	eneration Component		Laganside	Community Development Component	velopment C	omponent	Total Programme	gramme	Salaru & GAE	Total Allocation	bcation
	Income Deprived Population Settlement Bands A-G	% of total	Total	Total Population Settlement Bands A-G	% of total	Total	Average annual cost	Income Deprived Population of District	% of total	Indicative allocation (£,000)	Indicative allocation (£,000)	% of total	costs in proportion to Programme allocation	Indicative allocation (£,000)	% of total
Antrim and New tow nabbey	22,953	6.47%	1,538	113,820	8.73%	1622		25,511	5,65%	986	3,554	6.91%	365	3,818	6.94%
Amagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	32.521	277%	2:205	127,658	8.79%	1819		44,662	3.94%	100	4,718	9.17%	484	202 9	9.21%
Belfast	114,141	32.18%	7,544	332,905	25.54%	4,745	2,112	114,361	25.33%	1,768	16,269	31.63%	1,452	121.112	31.36%
Causeway Coast and Gens	23,548	6.63%	1,577	96,806	6.66%	1,227		35,125	7.78%	SHS	3,357	6.53%	344	3.10	6.55%
Derry and Strabane	46,639	13.162	121'E	118,067	X06.8	1.654		55,684	12, 33%	861	5,643	10.97%	579	127.9	11.01%
Fermanagh and Drnagh	12,476	3512	836	42,588	3.27%	609		21,357	6.06%	423	1,867	3.63%	Ð	2,008	3.64%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	16,352	4,61%	1,035	101.787	7,815	1,451		13,406	4,30%	300	2,846	5.53%	232	3,138	5.55%
Mid and East Antrim	20,737	5.84%	1.389	39,272	7,62%	1,415		25,001	5.54%	18E	3,130	6.20%	327	357	6.23%
Mid Uster	15,423	4.34%	1,033	55,707	4.27%	Ë.		33,923	7.5%	525	2,351	4.57%	241	2,555	4.53%
Newny& Mourne and Down	26,753	T.54%	1,792	31,735	7,04%	1,307		44,655	3.88%	089	3,790	7.37%	æ	4,110	7.40%
North Down and Ards	22,354	6.47%	1537	135,007	10, 3622	1,824		25,540	5,68%	395	3,856	7.50%	336	4,252	7.53%
	354,960		23.772	1,303,462		18,577	2,112	451,447		6,380	51,441		5,059	58,500	