



Department for Communities and Local Government

Mr Paul Riley

Head of Finance & Resources
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JQ

30 November 2015

Dear Paul,

Further to your email of 30 October 2015 asking the Secretary of State to revoke the designation of the Kent Business Rates Pool, in accordance with paragraph 34(3) and (6) of Schedule 7B to the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Secretary of State hereby revokes the designation of the following pool of authorities:

- Maidstone Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority
- Ashford Borough Council
- Canterbury City Council
- Dover District Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Shepway District Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Thanet District Council
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

This means that the Kent Business Rates pool ceases to exist from the end of this financial year.

Further to the same email, you asked the Secretary of State to reform the Business Rates Pool with a new membership. In accordance with paragraph 34 of Schedule 7B to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act"), the Secretary of State designates the following authorities as a pool of authorities for the purposes of the scheme for local retention of non-domestic rates under Schedule 7B to the 1988 Act:

- Maidstone Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

- Ashford Borough Council
- Canterbury City Council
- Dartford Borough Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Shepway District Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Thanet District Council
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

All members of the pool have agreed to this designation.

The designation has effect for the year beginning 1st April 2016 and for each subsequent year, unless revoked.

This designation is made subject to the conditions below.

1. The authorities to which this designation relates must appoint a lead authority to exercise the following functions:
 - To make and receive, on behalf of the pool members, payments in respect of any top ups and tariffs, levy and safety net and safety net on account payments to and from the Department.
 - To make and receive payments between members of the pool as determined by the governance agreements.
 - Administration (including the operation of the dissolution arrangements) of the pool in accordance with the governance arrangements.

2. If this designation is revoked, the authorities covered by this designation must take the following steps before the revocation takes effect:
 - Comply with the dissolution arrangements established in the pool's governance agreement.

Local authorities in the pool will have 28 days beginning with the date on which the draft Local Government Finance Report is published to consider if they wish to continue to be designated as a pool. Provided that no authority within the pool requests the Secretary of State to make a revocation during that period, the pool will come into effect on 1 April 2016, meaning that all local authorities covered by the designation will remain in the pool for the full financial year.

If a member of the pool decides it no longer wishes to be designated as part of a pool for 2016-17 it must notify DCLG using the e-mail address in the following paragraph. If a local authority exercises this option to request revocation of the designation before the cut-off date the rest of the pool cannot continue. The Secretary of State will then revoke this designation and the local authorities identified as part of this pool will revert to being considered as individual authorities for the purposes of the business rates retention scheme.

If there are any questions about the content of this letter and the enclosed designation please contact Kate Henman on 0303 444 2873 or at kate.henman@communities.gsi.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Style'.

Matthew Style

A member of the Senior Civil Service in the Department for Communities and Local Government

30 November 2015