



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Ms Alison Broom
Chief Executive
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
ME15 6JQ

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

16 December 2014

Dear Ms Broom,

LOCAL RETENTION OF NON-DOMESTIC RATES: DESIGNATION OF A POOL OF AUTHORITIES

The Government will shortly publish the draft Local Government Finance Report 2015-16. Within this pools of authorities will be treated as a single authority for top-up/tariffs and levy and safety net purposes. In addition to the aggregate pool position, the draft Report will also publish both individual figures. This will enable members of the pool to see their individual position relative the pool figures and will allow them to establish if they still wish to pool.

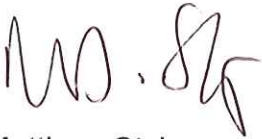
Local authorities in the pool will have 28 days beginning with the date on which the draft report is published to consider if they wish to continue to be designated as a pool. Provided that no authority within the pool requests the Secretary of State to make a revocation during that period, the pool will come in to effect on 1 April 15, meaning that all local authorities covered by the designation will remain in the pool for the full financial year. The designation will have effect for each subsequent financial year until the Secretary of State revokes the designation, either of his own volition or in response to a request to do so.

However, if a member of the pool decides it no longer wishes to be designated as part of a pool for 2015-16 it must notify DCLG using the e-mail address in the following paragraph by **14 January**. If a local authority exercises its option to request revocation of the designation before this 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 individual settlement figures.

If there are any questions about the content of this letter and the enclosed designation please contact Francis Jones on 0303 444 3855 or at francis.jones@communities.gsi.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Copies of this designation have been sent to all the members of this pool.

Yours sincerely,

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

Matthew Style
Director – Local Government Finance
Department for Communities and Local Government



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Chief Executive
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Dear Ms Broom,

**LOCAL RETENTION OF NON-DOMESTIC RATES: DESIGNATION OF A POOL OF
AUTHORITIES IN 2015-16**

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:

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

All members of the pool have agreed to this designation.

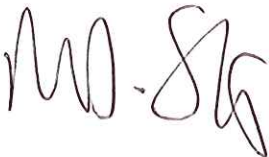
The designation has effect for the year beginning 1 April 2015 and for each subsequent year, unless revoked.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Style', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Style

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

16 December 2014



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Dear Ms Broom,

Further to the e-mail from Paul Riley at Maidstone Borough Council, of 30 October 2014 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 made on 17 December 2013 of the following pool of authorities:

- Local Authority Maidstone Borough Council
- Local Authority Kent County Council

This means that the Kent Business Rates pool ceases to exist and the authorities designated as that pool will revert to individual settlement figures in the final Local Government Finance Report 2015-16.

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

Matthew Style

A member of the Senior Civil Service in the Department for Communities and Local Government
16 December 2014

