

MHCLG Consultation “Local Authority Funding Reform: Objectives and Principles”

Question 1: Do you agree with the government’s objective to allocate grant and retained business rates income in a way which accounts for differences between local authorities in demand for services, the cost of delivering them and ability to raise Council Tax locally?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 2: In addition to the areas included in this consultation, are there elements of the local government finance system that are not fit for purpose and require improvement and reform? If so, please provide information on what reforms are required and why.

If you have views, please share these and any supporting explanation or evidence. (Free text)

Question 3: Do you agree that the suggested principles should inform our approach to updating local authority funding allocations?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 4: Do you agree with our proposal to use the best available evidence and most up-to-date data in the assessment of need, including using the most recent census data?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 5: Do you agree with our proposal to simplify the assessment by reducing the number of Relative Needs Formulae? If you disagree, please explain why and which service areas you are concerned about.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 6: For the children, young people and family services formula, do you agree that the variables set out are the right ones to consider in an assessment of relative need? If you recommend the addition or removal of variables, please provide supporting evidence and recommend a suitable dataset.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 7: Do you agree that the government should consider updating the data in the fire and rescue services Relative Needs Formula?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 8: Do you agree we should assess differences in cost using an Area Cost Adjustment based on the structure of 2024 ACA? If not, please provide evidence for alternative approaches.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 9: Do you agree that (other than locally retained business rates) we should only adjust for Council Tax when assessing local resources? If you do not agree, please include details of what other sources of income you think should be included (if any), and how the government should adjust for them.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 10: Do you agree that we should measure Council Tax income by making uniform assumptions on the Level of Council Tax charged by local authorities and factors which determine their ability to raise Council Tax?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 11: To what extent should we adjust for Council Tax when determining local authority allocations (i.e. what assumption should we make on Council Tax Level)?

Fully – Partially – Not at all – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 12: Do you agree Transitional Arrangements should account for a Business Rates Reset? If not, please explain why.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 13: Do you agree or disagree we should enable and encourage local authorities to support housebuilding in their areas through the Local Government Finance Settlement? Please provide any explanation or supporting evidence for your view.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 14: What measures should we use to support local authorities to move to their updated funding allocations?

Blend in updated allocations over several years – Other transitional arrangements (Check options that apply)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 15: Do you agree we should keep funding allocations up-to-date dynamically by using the most up-to-date data possible? If so, how?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation or evidence for your response. (Free text)

Question 16: What are the most excessively burdensome activities or requirements for councils, which if changed, could significantly free up local government capacity?

If you have views, please share these and any supporting explanation or evidence. (Free text)

Question 17: Do you agree with our proposals to reduce the number of grants and New Burdens payments issued to local government?

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation and evidence.
(Free text)

Question 18: Do you agree or disagree that the government should provide local authorities with greater control over Sales, Fees and Charges? Please provide supporting evidence, considering specific fees where greater control would be of most benefit, and expected impacts on charge-payers.

Agree – Neither agree nor disagree – Disagree – No view (Choose one option)

Please provide any additional information, including any explanation and evidence.
(Free text)

Question 19: Do you have any views on the potential impacts of the proposals in this consultation on persons who share a protected characteristic?

If you have views, please share these and any supporting explanation or evidence.
(Free text)