

Department for Children, Schools  
and Families  
Mowden Hall  
Staindrop Road  
Darlington DL3 9BG

To Directors of Children's Services  
Of Local Authorities in England

Tel 01325 391170  
John.britton@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Cc Standards Fund Officers

2 July 2007

**Extended Rights To Free Travel Arrangements For Primary Age Children Grant, Under  
Section 31 Of The Local Government Act 2003**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a new grant that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (formerly the Department for Education and Skills) will shortly be paying to local authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The purpose of the grant is to meet the additional expenditure pressure on local authorities that will result from the extended rights to free travel arrangements for children aged eight but under eleven, from low income families, to have travel arrangements made where they live more than two miles from their nearest qualifying school. These rights are detailed in Section 77 and Schedule 8 to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance, available from [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications).

Due to free bus travel being available to children in London, the grant will not be paid to London authorities.

**Details of the grant**

The Department proposes to pay £3.2 million as a specific formula grant in 2007-8 and £5 million in 2008-9 and in each year up to and including 2016-17, by a method to be determined.

The grant will be allocated to local authorities, based on the miles travelled by pupils aged 8 but under 11 from low income families, (entitled to free school meals or whose families are in receipt of maximum working tax credit) and the cost per pupil mile.

The grant allocation to be paid via the Standards Fund to your authority is shown at Annex A of the attached grant determination.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Standards Fund Officers in your authority for information.

## Background

Current school transport legislation was framed in 1944, and provides a guarantee of home to school transport for only a small minority of pupils – those of compulsory school age attending their nearest suitable school where this is beyond “statutory walking distance”.

Evidence shows that a lack of transport and the cost of transport can both act as barrier to choice. The result is that there is a real inequity in how far children are able to travel to school. More affluent children travel on average nearly half a mile further than the poorest, with only around 10% of children entitled to free school meals travelling 3 or more miles to school compared to 18% of children not entitled to free schools meals. We want to remove the lack of affordable transport as a barrier to choice.

Provision has been made within the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to extend the role of local authorities in supporting access to schools through improved travel and transport arrangements, particularly for children from the most disadvantaged families. It is envisaged that the grant will substantially meet the cost of extending entitlement to free travel.

Yours faithfully



John Britton  
Department for Children, Schools and Families  
Schools Access Team

**Funding per LA**

Funding:

£3,200,000

Figures based on the miles travelled by FSM and max WFTC primary pupils aged at least 8 years old and the cost per pupil mile

LA code	LA name	Funding per LA
330	Birmingham	£17,402.50
331	Coventry	£2,939.94
332	Dudley	£3,092.47
333	Sandwell	£3,158.84
334	Solihull	£4,038.76
335	Walsall	£2,621.47
336	Wolverhampton	£2,405.75
340	Knowsley	£1,508.39
341	Liverpool	£8,114.06
342	St. Helens	£1,860.21
343	Sefton	£5,259.68
344	Wirral	£5,505.04
350	Bolton	£2,503.12
351	Bury	£1,749.94
352	Manchester	£5,714.39
353	Oldham	£1,819.50
354	Rochdale	£2,202.67
355	Salford	£1,720.02
356	Stockport	£2,066.88
357	Tameside	£1,577.91
358	Trafford	£1,750.63
359	Wigan	£2,482.63
370	Barnsley	£2,549.73
371	Doncaster	£6,185.10
372	Rotherham	£2,660.22
373	Sheffield	£5,753.41
380	Bradford	£4,398.77
381	Calderdale	£3,301.80
382	Kirklees	£4,551.75
383	Leeds	£11,125.51
384	Wakefield	£3,443.31
390	Gateshead	£1,807.95
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	£3,435.60
392	North Tyneside	£1,700.69
393	South Tyneside	£1,648.44
394	Sunderland	£2,716.20
800	Bath and North East Somerset	£13,901.83
801	Bristol, City of	£11,037.43
802	North Somerset	£16,743.49
803	South Gloucestershire	£24,760.44
805	Hartlepool	£3,296.16
806	Middlesbrough	£4,088.69
807	Redcar and Cleveland	£6,264.29
808	Stockton-on-Tees	£8,050.46
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	£5,815.55
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	£68,292.34
812	North East Lincolnshire	£7,809.93
813	North Lincolnshire	£16,892.40
815	North Yorkshire	£98,378.34
816	York	£8,216.68
820	Bedfordshire	£7,475.30
821	Luton	£10,457.12
825	Buckinghamshire	£53,641.03
826	Milton Keynes	£21,249.17
830	Derbyshire	£36,766.62
831	Derby	£8,065.06
835	Dorset	£50,568.52
836	Poole	£8,254.20
837	Bournemouth	£8,266.08
840	Durham	£31,612.19
841	Darlington	£5,765.93
845	East Sussex	£55,716.28



846	Brighton and Hove	£14,162.86
850	Hampshire	£114,830.98
851	Portsmouth	£5,134.64
852	Southampton	£8,649.31
855	Leicestershire	£35,894.01
856	Leicester	£9,584.91
857	Rutland	£13,212.90
860	Staffordshire	£51,886.86
861	Stoke-on-Trent	£9,918.86
865	Wiltshire	£46,995.40
866	Swindon	£7,939.01
867	Bracknell Forest	£3,643.56
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	£9,409.56
869	West Berkshire	£13,211.21
870	Reading	£3,643.33
871	Slough	£7,075.62
872	Wokingham	£11,753.01
873	Cambridgeshire	£76,439.69
874	Peterborough	£12,400.32
875	Cheshire	£58,267.47
876	Halton	£4,567.93
877	Warrington	£6,816.40
878	Devon	£166,091.16
879	Plymouth	£6,995.49
880	Torbay	£7,979.86
881	Essex	£122,113.65
882	Southend-on-Sea	£8,462.52
883	Thurrock	£7,298.91
884	Herefordshire	£91,597.73
885	Worcestershire	£54,960.48
886	Kent	£141,602.65
887	Medway	£12,086.84
888	Lancashire	£55,058.62
889	Blackburn with Darwen	£5,238.40
890	Blackpool	£9,522.36
891	Nottinghamshire	£40,683.39
892	Nottingham	£8,112.60
893	Shropshire	£62,779.20
894	Telford & Wrekin	£18,095.52
908	Cornwall	£80,218.45
909	Cumbria	£84,587.77
916	Gloucestershire	£59,802.91
919	Hertfordshire	£48,707.21
921	Isle of Wight	£6,502.63
925	Lincolnshire	£125,351.25
926	Norfolk	£230,160.54
928	Northamptonshire	£34,828.72
929	Northumberland	£17,492.35
931	Oxfordshire	£54,231.45
933	Somerset	£68,902.60
935	Suffolk	£80,996.79
936	Surrey	£129,056.61
937	Warwickshire	£63,683.19
938	West Sussex	£43,201.51