

## **GUIDANCE ON POSSIBLE DCSF FUNDING FOR RECOVERY FROM FUTURE EMERGENCIES**

### Background and general information

1. These guidance notes set out the terms under which DCSF may make financial assistance available to local authorities to help meet the recovery costs incurred in the event of an exceptional emergency.
2. General Government guidance on recovery funding arrangements can be found in the National Recovery Guidance - [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response/recovery\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response/recovery_guidance.aspx) – and in the Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance – <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response.aspx>.
3. These notes do not commit DCSF to payments. In order to use resources fully, DCSF does not hold a contingency fund for exceptional events, so the possibility of funding will depend not just on the principles set out below, but also on the availability of funds at the time.
4. Emergency support will be intended to help meet some of the exceptional costs incurred by local authorities in supporting affected communities during the recovery phase after an emergency; only costs relating to schools or services for children, young people and families will be considered, and only top tier authorities will be eligible. Any such costs would have to be over and above those normally incurred by local authorities and outside those met by other funding schemes (eg Bellwin). No insurable costs would be met by DCSF funding – authorities that choose to self-insure will not receive any more favourable treatment..
5. The Bellwin scheme exists to cover local authorities' immediate needs in the event of an emergency. CLG, Defra and DfT also have recovery arrangements, which may or may not be activated; the activation of one or more of these does not necessarily mean the activation of others. Local authorities can access information about these other arrangements from the National Recovery Guidance website.

### Qualifying emergencies

6. Funding support would be activated at ministerial discretion – subject to the availability of funding – in the event of exceptional emergencies that have a major impact on communities, and the services to those communities that fall within the policy remit of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
7. For the purposes of this guidance, 'exceptional emergencies' should be interpreted as major emergencies with the sort of impacts currently described as significant (Level 4) or catastrophic (Level 5) in the local responder risk assessment advice, as set out in the Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance; the table in the Annex to this guidance provides more details of the sort of impacts that would be relevant.
8. Local authorities should be aware that the impacts set out in the table in the

Annex are purely indicative. The meeting of one or more of these indicators would not on its own trigger any funding schemes automatically.

### Provision of funding

9. Any funding might cover revenue and/or capital payments. The amount made available, where emergency funding is provided, will depend on the impact of a particular emergency on local resources and the total resource available. The indicator of need will be dependent upon the nature of a particular emergency. DCSF will consult affected local authorities on the indicator(s) to be used in a particular situation. It is possible that:

- a. More accessible indicators may be used as a proxy for impacts that are hard to measure (for example in the 2007 floods, DCSF used the number of children in flooded schools, and the amount of people in flooded homes as proxy indicators for disruption to services to children, young people and families);
- b. Partial information may be used in some cases if there is a need for urgent payments to minimise disruption to the school year;
- c. Different factors might apply at different times in the school year (holidays, exam periods).

### Which authorities would be eligible to receive funding?

10. Only top-tier authorities will be eligible, that is:

- a. County councils;
- b. Unitary council;
- c. London borough councils;
- d. The Council of the Isles of Scilly.

11. District councils will not be eligible.

### The reporting process

12. The Department will consider whether and how to activate funding based on reports and information provided by local authorities via Government Offices (GOs) – firstly through the Common Recognised Information Picture (CRIP) and then through the local: central recovery reporting template, or a modified version thereof. More information on both can be found in the National Recovery Guidance.

13. The GOs will act as the main point of contact with local authorities – ensuring they know what is required of them and responding to enquiries.

### What sort of things can LAs spend grants on?

14. Grant letters would set out the details of eligible expenditure. Within the scope of eligible expenditure, it would be for local authorities to determine exactly how they spent any funds they received, subject to any specific conditions set out in the grant letter.

15. Within the DCSF policy remit, we would expect eligible expenditure to include:

- a. Getting maintained schools of all categories including academies back open or into alternative or temporary accommodation;
- b. Providing support services to children, young people and families – especially services for safeguarding children and supporting vulnerable children);
- c. Maintaining the provision of childcare and early places.

16. Capital expenditure might be eligible, depending upon circumstances and value for money.

### Other general principles applying to any DCSF grant

17. Though subject to review at the time, we would expect the following principles to apply to any payments:

- a. Local authorities would be able to take school balances into account;
- b. There would be a minimum amount below which we would not offer any support;
- c. For longer-term capital needs, we will follow the established and ministerially agreed criteria for exceptional funding for any local authority:
  - i) There would be unacceptable damage to children's education or wellbeing if the project did not proceed; and
  - ii) The authority could not reasonably be expected to fund the project from other resources; and
  - iii) There is a value-for-money case for investing at that time to reduce future costs and to avoid buildings being re-built to superseded standards.

**Table:** Example of circumstances under which central recovery funding may be activated  
(from 'Emergency Preparedness' Annex 4D: Likelihood and impact scoring scales)

Level/Descriptor	Categories of Impact	Description of Impact
<b>4 Significant</b>	Health	Significant number of people in affected area impacted with multiple fatalities, multiple serious or extensive injuries, significant hospitalisation and activation of MAJAX procedures across a number of hospitals.
	Social	Significant damage that requires support for local responders with external resources.
		100 to 500 people in danger and displaced for longer than 1 week. Local responders require external resources to deliver personal support.
		Significant impact on and possible breakdown of delivery of some local community services.
	Economic	Significant impact on local economy with medium-term loss of production.
		Significant extra clean-up and recovery costs.
	Environment	Significant impact on environment with medium- to long-term effects.
<b>5 Catastrophic</b>	Health	Very large numbers of people in affected area(s) impacted with significant numbers of fatalities, large number of people requiring hospitalisation with serious injuries with longer-term effects.
	Social	Extensive damage to properties and built environment in affected area requiring major demolition.
		General and widespread displacement of more than 500 people for prolonged duration and extensive personal support required.
		Serious damage to infrastructure causing significant disruption to, or loss of, key services for prolonged period. Community unable to function without significant support.
	Economic	Serious impact on local and regional economy with some long-term, potentially permanent, loss of production with some structural change.
		Extensive clean-up and recovery costs.
	Environment	Serious long-term impact on environment and/or permanent damage.