



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Jacob Young MP**  
*Minister for Levelling Up*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Cllr Afrasiab Anwar MBE  
aanwar@burnley.gov.uk

23 Feb 24

Dear Cllr Anwar,

In September, we launched our Long-Term Plan for Towns, a core part of the government's levelling up programme. As you know, this is a fundamentally different way of approaching the challenges towns face, a £1.1 billion investment that will provide up to £20 million of 'endowment-style' funding and support into your town. I am writing to follow up on the points raised, at the webinar held for Chief Executives on 14 February.

I am pleased to be able to confirm the terms on which the 'endowment-style' funding will be made available. Each town will receive an annual, uniform, predetermined amount that is a broadly flat profile across each year of the 10-year span of the programme, similar to how Mayoral investment funds operate. This provides a predictable income for your town, delivering on the Prime Minister's commitment, responding to the feedback of stakeholders, and giving your Town Board the certainty to leverage private and philanthropic investment.

As set out previously, your Town Board's Long-Term Plan must include a three-year investment plan that sets out the proposed policy interventions the board wishes to pursue, which should include a forecasted spend that matches your expected delivery milestones. This forecast does not need to match the financial profile set out in the annex to this letter. Towns will have the flexibility to rollover funding into future years until the end of the programme, and the intention to roll over investment can be included within the three-year plan, by opting not to forecast utilising the full profile year-on-year. Equally, if a Town Board underspends within year, that money can be rolled into the next financial year with the certainty that the next tranche of funding will follow.

This flexibility does not extend to towns being able to draw down funding more quickly; however, your local authority may seek to use the confirmed revenue funding stream to borrow against, subject to normal considerations for prudential borrowing, and the flexibility provided by the additional confirmed capital income should they wish to front load investment. At the end of the first three-year investment plan cycle, for FY27/28, there will be a built-in 'check-in' point, to analyse delivery across the first three years alongside the submission of the next three-year investment plan.


In addition to the £50,000 capacity funding paid in December, to support the setting up of your Town Board, the next capacity instalment of £200,000 will be sent to local authorities in April. This will be released following my department completing the necessary assurance of the setup of your Towns Board and Chair and considering any alterations to your town boundaries. We intend to open the process to provide that information as soon as possible, so that towns can submit that information in advance of the 1 April deadline.

Similarly, as advised previously, we are strongly encouraging Town Boards to submit their Long-Term Plans in advance of the 1 August deadline. My department will assess plans as they come in and, subject to approval, release the capital and revenue payments for 2024-25. The local authority will then receive an annual payment at the start of each financial year, which is set out in the table below.

As set out in the initial prospectus and guidance documents, towns will also benefit from a new High Streets and Towns Taskforce that will provide bespoke, hands-on support from place-making experts to support with delivery, encourage shared learning and promote networking between the Town Boards. They will also be supported by the Towns Unit, chaired by Adam Hawksbee, that reports directly to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up. We will also be establishing a new expert panel to provide a more strategic, cross-cutting perspective on thematic issues relevant to the investment priorities of the Long-Term Plan for Towns. More information on this will follow.

This holistic package of funding, support and analysis will give your Town Boards the freedom to develop plans that meet local priorities. I have copied this letter to the respective MP for your area and I look forward to continuing to work with you and them in realising the full potential for your town.

Best wishes,

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

**JACOB YOUNG MP**  
*Minister for Levelling Up*

**Annex – Long-Term Plan for Towns Funding Profile**

in 000's	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	Total
Total RDEL per place	50	449	423	449	449	449	449	454	467	467	467	4,574
Total CDEL per place		491	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	14,936
Total amount per place												19,510