

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

Local Government Finance (WALES)

SPECIAL GRANT REPORT (No. 25) (WALES) 2001

Report by the National Assembly for Wales under Section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

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Introduction

1. This Report is made by the National Assembly for Wales ("the Assembly") under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 ("the 1988 Act"). This power has been devolved to the Assembly by the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999, which came into force on 1 July 1999. This Report specifies a determination of special grants which the Assembly proposes to pay to county councils and county borough councils in Wales ("authorities").

2. This Report specifies the Assembly's determination of the authorities to which the grants are to be paid, the purpose for which the grants are to be paid and the amount which the Assembly proposes to pay to each of the authorities concerned or the manner in which the amounts are to be calculated. It also sets out such explanation as the Assembly considers desirable of the main features of the determination and specifies the conditions the Assembly intends to impose on the payment of the grants.

The purpose

3. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(b) of the 1988 Act, the Assembly hereby determines the following purpose for which special grants (known as "Special Local Road Grants") are to be paid:

to provide support towards the expenditure of the authorities receiving the grants to carry out programmes of local road repairs over and above those already programmed.

Authorities to which special grants are to be paid and amounts payable

4. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(a) of the 1988 Act, the Assembly hereby determines as the authorities to which special grants are to be paid as the authorities whose areas are listed in column 1 of Annex A.

5. Pursuant to section 88B(3)(c) of the 1988 Act, the amount which the Assembly proposes to pay to an authority listed in column 1 of Annex A is that specified in relation to that authority in column 2 of Annex A.

Main features

6. Annex B contains the main features of the determination specified in this Report.

Conditions for the payment of special grants

7. Pursuant to section 88B(7) of the 1988 Act, the Assembly hereby specifies as the conditions which the Assembly intends to impose on the payment of Special Local Road Grants, the conditions set out in Annex C.

Approved by resolution of the National Assembly for Wales on 7 February 2002

Annex A - Allocation of Special Local Road Grant Money

	Proposed Allocation 2001-2
	£
Blaenau Gwent	285,000
Bridgend	400,000
Caerphilly	250,000
Cardiff	440,000
Carmarthenshire	375,000
Ceredigion	350,000
Conwy	300,000
Denbighshire	425,000
Flintshire	380,000
Gwynedd	450,000
Isle of Anglesey	450,000
Merthyr Tydfil*	0
Monmouthshire*	0

Neath Port Talbot*	0
Newport	450,000
Pembrokeshire	250,000
Powys	450,000
Rhondda,Cynon,Taff	430,000
Swansea	250,000
The Vale of Glamorgan	450,000
Torfaen	200,000
Wrexham	250,000
TOTAL	

* Grant starts 2002-03 – see 2 of the guidance notes below

Annex B

Calculation of the amounts of grant payable to authorities

1. Special grants totalling £6,835,000 for the financial year 2001-02 are available to local authorities.
2. A range of formulae was considered for this allocation together with information supplied by each authority on its assessed maintenance needs which could not be dealt with within existing budget allocations. While no one formula was considered to deliver all objectives they and the information supplied all contributed to the overall assessment process and the final allocation decisions.
3. This means of determining allocations of grant to individual authorities has been discussed with the

Welsh Local Government Association.

4. Payment of grant will be subject to the conditions set out in Annex C.

Annex C

Conditions for the payment of special grants

1. Special Local Road Grant shall be used in the financial year 2001-02 and then only for supporting projects which have been agreed with the Transport Directorate of the National Assembly for Wales;
2. An authority shall, before any grant is paid, provide the Assembly with written confirmation that it intends to use the grant in the financial year 2001-02 as additional expenditure to that already planned on road maintenance. Payment will be made in one sum as soon as possible after approval by the National Assembly for Wales.
3. Authorities are required to monitor how the special grant has been spent and the results of that expenditure. Authorities will provide the Assembly with:
 - (a) a report detailing the works carried out by 30 June 2002; and
 - (b) the opportunity for the Assembly's area engineers to inspect the completed works.

SPECIAL LOCAL ROAD GRANT 2001- 02

GUIDANCE NOTE BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

Introduction

1. This note concerns the special grant which the National Assembly for Wales ("the Assembly") is making to county councils and county borough councils in Wales ("local authorities" for the purpose of this note) in support of local road maintenance. It sets out the guidance which the Assembly is providing to local authorities.

The guidance is not legally binding, but the Assembly asks that it be taken into account by local authorities in taking decisions on how the grant will be spent.

2. The total budget available for distribution to Welsh local authorities in

2001-02 is £6.835 million. The intention is that this grant will continue to be available in the financial year 2002-03. Any allocation will be subject to confirmation by the Assembly at the appropriate time.

3. Local authorities will wish to note that expenditure of this grant will not be counted as part of an authority's budget requirement for capping purposes.

Purpose of the grant

4. The purpose of the grant is stated in the Special Grant Report to be used:

" to provide support towards the expenditure of the authorities receiving the grants to carry out programmes of local road repairs over and above those already programmed".

Guidance

5. It is important that assets such as highway networks are properly and efficiently maintained and that backlogs of repairs are not allowed to build up. Such repairs can, if left too long, result in more expensive rehabilitation works.

6. Local authorities have a key part to play in this and the special local road grant should be used to fund schemes and projects which will work towards reducing any backlog of repairs. Special attention should be focused on the main transport links.

7. The condition of roads in England and Wales is the central theme of the annual National Road Maintenance Condition Survey. This utilises both visual and structural surveys. The visual survey is carried out during the Summer and Autumn and records the visible physical condition of the road network at the national level. The structural survey is based on information from surveys carried out by special machines and the results are expressed in terms of the percentage of the surveyed network which requires close monitoring i.e. zero residual life. The percentage target for the trunk road network in Wales is 10%. The actual percentage for the Principal Road network in 2000 was 15% which indicates that a backlog of repairs has built up. The schemes that will be implemented as a result of the special local road grant will help to reduce the backlog.

8. All projects must be capable of implementation within the financial year 2001-02 and be monitored and evaluated.

Network Management Division

The National Assembly for Wales

February 2001