



PLANNING SKILLS DELIVERY FUND (PSDF) - YEAR 1 - 2023/24 and 2024/25

LOCAL AUTHORITY AWARD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will funding be awarded to successful local authorities?

All successful local authorities awarded funding under PSDF (year 1) have now been notified of their allocations. PSDF (year 1) funding consists of two phases:

- Financial year 2023/24 for backlog and skills funding
- Financial year 2024/25 for skills funding only

Some local authorities have been awarded funding in both phases and will receive separate Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) to cover each financial year.

We are currently working at pace to issue MoUs to all successful local authorities, to be signed by local authority S151 Officers and returned to DLUHC. Upon receipt of the signed MoU we will process and issue payments.

For funding awarded in financial year 2023/24 we aim to make payments to local authorities by February / March 2024.

For funding awarded in financial year 2024/25 we aim to make payments to local authorities by end April 2024.

For funding awarded in financial year 2023/24, will local authorities be able to carry over any unspent funding into 2024/25?

DLUHC expects the local authority to have completed the plans for the project and committed to spend the funding by the end of the financial year 2023/24.

How will payments be made to local authorities?

Payments will be made as a grant supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Grant Determination letter. If the local authority has been awarded two phases of funding (2023/24 and 2024/25) then the local authority will receive funding in two separate payments.

If the local authority has been awarded one phase of funding (for either 2023/24 or 2024/25) the local authority will receive one payment.

Where a local authority has been awarded PSDF funding, can recruitment of staff now begin, and contracts be offered beyond the current financial year (2023/24)?

Yes, where a local authority has been awarded PSDF funding, recruitment can now actively begin.

Regarding the length of any employment contract, a local authority will need to have committed funding by the end of the financial year 2023/24 to demonstrate how it will be spent.

If a local authority incurs costs, ahead of receiving funding, this will be at the local authority's own risk. DLUHC will not be able to cover any costs above and beyond the funds awarded.

How will the monitoring and evaluation process work?

Local authorities will be expected to report quarterly on progress against milestones and complete an end of grant evaluation form. Further information will be in the MoU.

How can my local authority engage with DLUHC officials?

A learning programme is being planned, which will provide several opportunities to engage with DLUHC and share experiences of the PSDF. As part of this, the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) will be holding a series of online and in person events, where authorities can ask questions, share experiences and develop shared solutions alongside other local authorities participating in the fund.

In addition, enquires can be sent to PlanningSkillsDeliveryFund@levellingup.gov.uk and the DLUHC team will provide a response.

Is there a requirement for my local authority to manage any subsidy control arrangements?

Detailed information on Subsidy Control requirements together with contact points for advice, can be accessed through the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime>.

If a local authority identifies a need for any subsidy control arrangements, the local authority should seek tailored advice through bodies such as the Department for Business and Trade.

Will further funding opportunities become available?

The PSDF has proved to be very popular, and we are pleased to confirm that there will be a further round of allocations in Spring 2024. We will outline more information on this in due course.

DLUHC

Capacity and Capability Team

January 2024