

# **100% Business Rates Retention Programme**

## **Draft Critical Path**

### **Principles**

- The reformed Business Rates Retention system to be implemented from April 2019;
- Local authorities should have as much notice as possible of specific reforms and of changes to funding levels resulting from those reforms;
- There will continue to be plenty of opportunities for co-design and consultation with local government and businesses as the reforms are designed – particularly through the Steering Group, Technical Working Groups and Business Interest Group; and
- Final policy decisions will be for Ministers. In reaching those decisions, our aim is for Ministers' consideration to be informed by engagement with and feedback from local government and other interested parties.

### **Draft high level milestones**

The timetable below reflects our current estimate of progress in the period between now and implementation of the system in April 2019. The timing of individual milestones may be subject to change and influenced by various factors, including the Parliamentary timetable and Ministerial decisions. Our aim is that any published documents reflect discussions and engagement with the Steering Group and Technical Working Group on key issues.

### **Short-term (February 2017 – June 2017)**

- Local Government Finance Bill passage through Commons
- Consultation documents on System Design and the Fair Funding Review
- Fair Funding Review technical papers on individual elements of potential formulas (adult social care, needs etc) and taking resources into account
- Implementation of 2017/18 pilots and design of 2018/19 pilot process

### **Summer/Autumn 2017 (July 2017 – November 2017)**

- Local Government Finance Bill passage through Lords
- Engagement on detailed proposals for loss payments, resets, reliefs and central list
- Further Fair Funding Review technical papers
- Engagement on technical elements of infrastructure supplement proposals (i.e. minimum rateable value)
- Finalising 2018/19 pilots, including in London and any extension of existing pilots
- LGA report on growth/skills responsibilities to conclude

### **Winter 2017/18 (December 2017 – March 2018)**

- Local Government Finance Bill expected to achieve Royal Assent
- Fair Funding Review single model to bring together options
- Engagement on proposals for pooling and local growth zones
- Detailed arrangements for loss payments, infrastructure supplement and multiplier flexibility
- Expected decision on package of responsibilities to be devolved at the outset of the reformed system.

### **Spring/Summer 2018 (April 2018 – September 2018)**

- Further work on detailed arrangements for resets, central list, pooling and local growth zones
- Expected decision on tier splits and safety net
- Engagement on Fair Funding Review and System Design outcomes and impacts on individual local authorities
- Any statutory consultation required as local authorities decide to form pools
- Mayors to consult on any prospectus for infrastructure supplement in 2019/20
- Implementation of 2018/19 pilots

### **Autumn/Winter 2018/19 (October 2018 – February 2019)**

- Continued further work on detailed arrangements on pooling, local growth zones as well as, tier splits and safety net
- Autumn Budget 2018
- Provisional Settlement
- LAs wishing to make use of multiplier flexibility to inform other affected authorities.
- Final Settlement and all final regulations laid