

From: **[REDACTED]**
Agency Implementation Division
31 July 2017

Minister for Social Security
Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities

LOCATION ANALYSIS – PHASE 2 APPROACH AND RESULTS

Purpose

1. To update you on the results of the Phase 2 appraisal of options for the location of the new Social Security Agency's central office(s) following discussion on the submission sent on 15 June 2017.

Priority

2. Urgent.

Background

3. In the Minister's statement to Parliament on 27 April, it was announced that the same multi-criteria framework used for the wider options appraisal would be used in assessing options for main agency location and that a decision on this would be announced in the autumn. A submission setting out a proposed approach was sent on 8 May 2017.
4. Phase 1 of the work suggested that further focus should be on 15 Local Authority areas in Phase 2 and that a more in depth analytical approach should be combined with commercial considerations as detailed in the submission of 20 June.

Approach

1. Phase 2 involved detailed analysis of the 15 Local Authorities shortlisted following Phase 1. The analysis followed the Multi-Criteria Analysis approach employed in the Outline Business Case for the Social Security System but leaned much more heavily on quantitative data to rank options. Full details can be found in Annex A. Annex B contains the raw data and results and Annex C contains the local authority detailed information. (These annexes are embedded as PDF files as well as being sent separately due to their size).
2. The data was used to rank the 15 Local Authorities against 4 broad criteria: Inclusive Growth, Ability to Recruit, Regeneration and Contribution to Local Delivery. These 4 broad criteria were made up of 12 indicators which derived data on 43 individual sub-indicators and have been mapped to the OBC analysis.
3. The 4 scores for each Local Authority scores against the broad criteria were weighed equally to derive an overall ranking. The quantitative analysis at Phase 2 adjusts appropriate indicators to take into account of the proximity of other neighbouring local authority areas. This is appropriate in authorities which, if

analysed in isolation, would appear relatively weak compared to their larger neighbours.

Results of the analysis

4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]

Discussion

8. [REDACTED]

Next Steps

9. The aim of Phase 2 was to provide a robust data-driven evidence base for Ministerial decision on the broad area of location for the Agency's central office.
[REDACTED]
10. A meeting has been arranged for the 1st August to discuss with officials.

Recommendations

11. You are invited to note the contents of this submission and the supporting Annexes and:
 - Confirm that you are content with our Phase 2 for the process of determining the Social Security Agency location as set out in Annex A
 - Meet with officials as noted in para 14.

[REDACTED]
Agency Implementation Division
[REDACTED]
31 June 2017

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness

[REDACTED]

Annex A – [REDACTED]

Annex B – [REDACTED]

Annex C – [REDACTED]