

New 'Inspiration Class' Type-31 warships named

Press release

The names of five next-generation Type-31 frigates for the Royal Navy have been announced by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Tony Radakin.



Approved by HM The Queen, the vessels will be named HMS Active, HMS Bulldog, HMS Campbeltown, HMS Formidable and HMS Venturer.

Grouped together as the Inspiration Class, the names of the new vessels are drawn from former warships and submarines whose missions and history will inspire Royal Navy operations.

The names also represent the Royal Navy's future vision: HMS Active signifies the forward deployment of Royal Navy ships to protect UK values and interests, whilst HMS Bulldog is focused on operational advantage in the North Atlantic.

HMS Campbeltown symbolises the 'raiding from the sea' focus of the Royal Marines' Future Commando Force, HMS Formidable recognises the history of aircraft carrier strike operations and HMS Venturer promotes the navy's technology and innovation forward-look.

First Sea Lord, Admiral Tony Radakin said:

I welcome the announcement of the names of the Inspiration-class frigates. Each of the names has been chosen for evoking those values we strive for: cutting-edge technology, audacity and global operations.

They represent the best of Britain's world-class shipbuilding heritage and will fly the flag for decades to come.

As announced by the Prime Minister last November, Defence has received an increase in funding of over £24-billion across the next four years, enabling our Armed Forces to adapt to meet future threats. As part of this, the Type-31 frigates will replace the five general-purpose Type-23 frigates currently in service with the Royal Navy. Expected to enter service by 2028, they will carry a crew of up to 105 and will be deployed on duties around the world, working alongside new Type-26 frigates dedicated to submarine detection operations.

Initially announced by the MOD in November 2019, the new vessels will be constructed by Babcock at its dockyard in Rosyth and the first steel cut is due to take place this summer.

Outlined in the recent Defence Command Paper, the MOD remains committed to delivering on new vessels for the Royal Navy. The Type-31 will form part of Royal Navy Integrated Force 2030 vision, as it becomes a threat-focussed service.

- HMS Active: Named after the Type 21 frigate HMS Active which served the Royal Navy from the late 1970s until the mid-1990s. As well as taking part in the operation to liberate the Falklands, supporting the final battles for Port Stanley, Active spent her career deployed in support of Britain's Overseas Territories and global interests, from tackling drug traffickers to enforcing UN embargos and providing humanitarian aid in the aftermath of natural disasters.
- HMS Bulldog: Named after the destroyer which helped turn the tables in the Battle of the Atlantic thanks to the bravery of her boarding party. They searched stricken U-boat U110 in May 1941 and recovered the Germans' 'unbreakable' coding machine, Enigma, plus codebooks. It gave Britain a vital intelligence lead at a key stage in the struggle to keep its Atlantic lifelines open.
- HMS Campbeltown: Named after the wartime destroyer which led the 'greatest commando raid of all': St Nazaire in France. In March 1942, the ship rammed the dock gates and hidden explosives aboard blew up, wreaking havoc in the port and denying its use to major German warships for the rest of WW2. The action epitomises the raiding ethos driving the Royal Marines' Future Commando Force.
- HMS Formidable: Named after the WW2 carrier which epitomised carrier strike operations from Norway, through the Mediterranean to the Pacific. She survived kamikaze strikes and took the war to the Japanese mainland with Lieutenant Commander Robert Hampton Gray earning the last naval VC of the war for his daring sinking of a Japanese destroyer just six days before Tokyo surrendered.
- HMS Venturer: Named after the WW2 submarine which sank German U-boat

U864 northwest of Bergen, Norway, on February 9 1945 – while both vessels were submerged. Venturer enjoyed a technological and intelligence advantage over her foe thanks to decoded messages indicating the enemy's location and a superbly-trained crew who located and destroyed the U-boat. It was the first time one submarine had deliberately sunk another while submerged.

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Thousands more young people to benefit from Opportunity Areas

Thousands more young people in some of the most disadvantaged regions of England will benefit from a fifth year of investment in the flagship Opportunity Areas programme as part of the government's commitment to levelling up.

Since 2016, the programme has invested £90 million on improving school standards, attendance, teaching quality and recruitment, careers training and advice, literacy and maths skills, alongside tackling barriers to learning that exist beyond the school gates.

An additional £18 million will now be invested in 12 Opportunity Areas across the country, which include Blackpool, Derby and Oldham. Each area will be 'twinned' with previous areas who have faced similar challenges so they can benefit from their expertise and collaborate more closely on the issues facing children and young people.

The programme aims to help children and young people improve in key subjects such as maths and English, support pupils who are at risk of falling out of education or give older students the confidence and skills to make the leap from school into work.

Ensuring every child has access to the high-quality education and support they deserve is a key part of the government's levelling up agenda. The Prime Minister has today set out his renewed commitment to ensuring opportunity is spread equally throughout the country and has endorsed the Opportunity Areas programme as a key part of this.

Opportunity Areas Minister Michelle Donelan said:

Opportunity Areas have been making a real difference in levelling up the outcomes for children and young people in some of the most disadvantaged parts of the country, from early years into

employment. We have seen this difference in the rising standards in key subjects like maths and phonics, in how the targeted support available is boosting young people's confidence to succeed and in how each area was able to adapt to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

I have seen first-hand how the dedication and commitment of people on the ground in these areas is driving school improvement and removing the barriers to success. This funding will enable them to continue this important work, help sustain long-term improvements and outcomes, support even more children and young people, and level up standards across England.

The additional funding will help more children and young people across the country benefit from the expertise nurtured in the Opportunity Areas. Examples include the Sheffield City Region adopting a high-quality skills and careers strategy to create more opportunities for young people, following a successful roll out by the Doncaster Opportunity Area.

Hasting Opportunity Area's work supporting literacy inclusion and covid recovery will be shared to help children and in Portsmouth and East Sussex, and Stoke-on-Trent's twinning activities in Rotherham and Lincoln will provide mentoring for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people through community work at their local football clubs.

These activities will build on the existing successes of the Opportunity Area programme which include phonics results in Derby improving significantly in recent years, with the percentage of year one pupils achieving the phonics standard increasing to 83% in 2019, surpassing the national average. Improvements in Derby saw a 5-percentage point increase since 2016 (78%), against a national increase of 1 percentage point (81% in 2016 and 82% in 2019).

An innovative recruitment campaign across the North Yorkshire Coast has filled 225 teacher and support role vacancies in 45 schools, 40 coming from outside the area as did 13 new Teach First trainees, reducing spending and reliance on supply staff.

The proportion of children in West Somerset achieving the expected levels in the early learning goals has also increased year-on-year since 2016, from 57% in 2016 to 73% in 2019, which was above the national average of 72%.

Other successes across the wider programme include early years outcomes for disadvantaged children improving in nine of the 12 Opportunity Areas, phonics results for all pupils improving in 10 of the 12 areas, and Key Stage 2 performance improving by more than the national rate in 10 of the 12.

Over the past four years, the Opportunity Areas have been led by local people delivering tailored solutions to tackle entrenched problems in places for too long left behind, using local knowledge to address social mobility challenges, and levelling up the opportunities for thousands of young people

to reach their potential.

As well as playing an important role in helping areas recover from the coronavirus pandemic, a key priority for year five of the Opportunity Areas will be ensuring the changes that have been put in place are sustainable, with a continued focus on the most impactful elements of the programme.

This announcement takes the total investment in the OAs to £108 million, continuing its work to improve early years and school standards and addressing barriers to learning that exist beyond the school gates. The Department for Education is now working directly with the Opportunity Areas to identify priorities for the fifth year of the programme.

Other key successes from the Opportunity Area programme include:

- Stoke City, Port Vale and Blackpool Football Clubs are working with pupils aged 11 to 19 who are disadvantaged, vulnerable or at risk of falling out of education. Each football club is working with another in a different area to set up similar mentoring schemes and help even more young people. In Stoke-on-Trent Opportunity Area, Stoke City is working with Rotherham United and Port Vale with Lincoln City, while in Blackpool Opportunity Area, Blackpool is working with Fleetwood Town in Lancashire;
- The 'Early Identification of Autism' project in Bradford is bringing support to children in school to make sure multidisciplinary intervention and education provision is put in place earlier for those who need it. This is being expanded to 100 schools in close partnership with the Department of Health & Social Care and NHS England;
- The Doncaster Careers Hub is bringing together leaders in schools, businesses, universities, and careers providers and is being shared with schools across Sheffield City Region;
- 1,200 staff from schools and settings in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire have received mental health training;
- More than 1,500 school pupils across primary schools in Hastings have benefited from a maths mastery training programme and are now on track to exceed the national average in maths attainment at Key Stage 2;
- Over 1,000 Ipswich pupils were supported by Remote Learning Support Assistants to engage with online learning during the Spring Term, with continued strong attendance and engagement from these pupils since face-to-face classes have resumed.
- 71 'Emotional Literacy Support Assistants' have been trained in Norwich to support children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties, and help children back into school routines following Covid disruptions;
- 70% of schools in Oldham now have professionals trained to deliver mental health initiatives to children; and
- Since 2018, Stoke-on-Trent's 'Ay up Duck' project has delivered over 26,000 meals for 18,260 attendees (including 15,700 children) in schools and community centres, alongside sport, music and art sessions, with those attending saying the project is helping to rebuild their communities.

Alongside the examples listed above in Doncaster, Hastings and Stoke-on-Trent, other Opportunity Area twinning projects include:

- Blackpool twinning with Lancashire to support young people in their careers journey including enhanced engagement of those most at risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment of Training).
- Bradford twinning with Knowsley to support school improvement.
- Derby twinning with locations in Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire to support skills, careers and young people at risk of becoming NEET.
- Fenland and East Cambridgeshire twinning with Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Kings Lynn, and West Norfolk to support social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and workforce development.
- Ipswich twinning with Felixstowe (Suffolk local authority) to support wellbeing, resilience, and KS2-3 transition.
- Norwich twinning with Breckland and Great Yarmouth (Norfolk local authority) to support early years speech and language, and inclusion.
- North Yorkshire Coast twinning with Bridlington (East Riding local authority) to support behaviour and inclusion.
- Oldham twinning with Tameside local authority to support digital learning development.
- West Somerset twinning with Mendip/Glastonbury and Frome (Somerset LA), and Weymouth & Portland (Dorset LA) to support careers and early years.

[DBS launches 2021-22 business plan](#)

News story

The business plan focuses on the actions DBS will take over the next year, in line with our strategy.



The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has launched its [business plan for 2021-22](#), which focuses on the actions we will take over the next year to support delivery of our [five-year strategy](#), which was published last year.

The business plan sets out an ambitious but realistic plan for the next twelve months, and includes a number of priorities, including:

- further performance improvements
- delivery of modernisation of our services, improving our processes for customers
- a strong focus on our People strategic objectives

The plan also highlights some of our achievements over the past year. 2020-21 was the first year on our strategic journey since launching our strategy, and despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we delivered good operational performance, and put detailed strategic plans in place for priority areas across the organisation.

Quality remains at the heart of the work we do at DBS, and everything we've detailed within the business plan is designed to improve our services and our decision-making, and continue to support us in our vision of making recruitment safer.

The business plan can be found [here](#).

A Welsh version of the business plan will be available shortly.

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[More high streets set for funding boost as reopening accelerates](#)

Press release

Further 57 English high streets to receive a share of over £830 million to improve transport links, build new homes and transform underused spaces.



- Funding confirmed for a further 57 areas

- In total, 72 high streets will share over £830 million to help them reopen and recover from the pandemic
- Investment to help transform town centres into vibrant places to live, work and shop

More high streets will receive new money to improve transport links, build new homes and transform underused spaces in a key milestone for the government's levelling up agenda.

In total, 72 English high streets – from Penzance to South Shields – will share over £830 million, with 57 of these areas announced today.

As pubs, cinemas, bowling alleys and more open up this week, this funding will provide a much-needed boost for towns as they safely welcome shoppers and visitors back to their high streets.

The funding is part of the government's plan to protect, support and create thousands of jobs in a range of industries, delivering opportunities and prosperity to communities across England.

Confirmed plans include:

- £17.28 million for Grimsby will create a new multiplex cinema and market food hall, which hopes to boost visitor numbers to the town centre. A new public square and events space will be created bringing more vitality and buzz to the high street.
- £13.96 million investment for Taunton to build new homes, business spaces and hospitality venues, as well as an outdoor performance venue for events to boost visitor numbers.
- £6.28 million for Sutton-in-Ashfield for the refurbishment of the Sutton Academy theatre space and repurposing of vacant retail space into offices and hospitality venues. A new pop-up food and events space as well as better pedestrian links will encourage more local people to visit the town centre for special events and festivals.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

This funding is part of wider support we are providing to communities and businesses, to protect jobs, support the most vulnerable and ensure no one is left behind as we recover from pandemic.

This investment will make a huge difference to towns and cities across England and transform themselves in desired places to shop, visit, live and work.

The Future High Streets Fund will support towns, communities and businesses as we get back to enjoying the best of what the high street has to offer.

The [Future High Streets Fund](#) was launched in December 2018 and is a key part of this government's plan to renew and reshape town centres – making them a more attractive place to live, work and visit. It is just one of the ways the government is supporting the retail and hospitality sector.

Support for high streets

- We launched the [Welcome Back Fund](#) in March 2021 to help councils boost tourism, improve green spaces and provide more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups – giving people more safer options to reunite with friends and relatives throughout the summer.
- The High Street Homes Permitted Development Rights will make it easier for disused buildings to be repurposed and provide housing.
- Providing restaurants, pubs and cafes with the freedom to offer takeaway services; and making it easier for businesses and communities to host markets and stalls so customers can be served safely.
- A generous package of support to businesses and communities, with over £35 billion in financial support since the start of the pandemic.
- Through the £4.8 billion [Levelling Up Fund](#), the £220 million [Community Renewal Fund](#) and the £3.6 billion [Towns Fund](#) the government is investing in long-term infrastructure projects to level up our towns and rural areas and ensure the vitality of our town centres for years to come.
- The government has published its [response to the Parking Code Framework](#) which will curb unfair tickets and tackle cowboy parking firms through a new, simplified appeals process. Caps on private parking fines for millions of motorists are also set to be introduced. This will give drivers more confidence in heading into town knowing they won't be unfairly penalised by rogue operators.

Further information

The 57 places awarded funding today are:

1. Leamington Town Spa, Warwick (Warwickshire) – £10,015,121
2. Nuneaton Town Centre, Nuneaton and Bedworth (Warwickshire) – £13,331,637
3. Wolverhampton City Centre – £15,760,196
4. Walsall – £11,439,967
5. Newcastle-Under-Lyme – £11,048,260
6. Stafford – £14,377,723
7. Tottenham, Haringey – £10,019,647
8. Woolwich Town Centre, Greenwich – £17,150,964
9. Wealdstone, Harrow – £7,448,583
10. Putney Town Centre, Wandsworth – £1,058,706
11. Elland Town Centre, Calderdale (West Yorkshire) – £6,310,812
12. Northallerton, Hambleton (North Yorkshire) – £6,085,013
13. Rotherham – £12,660,708
14. Halifax – £11,762,823
15. Barnsley Town Centre – £15,624,456
16. Scunthorpe – £10,675,323
17. New Ferry, Wirral – £3,213,523
18. Wigan – £16,633,692

19. Crewe – £14,148,128
20. Rochdale (Greater Manchester) – £17,080,457
21. Farnworth, Bolton (Greater Manchester) – £13,276,817
22. Oldham – £10,750,179
23. Kirkham Town Centre, Fylde – £6,290,831
24. Maryport Town Centre, Allerdale – £11,527,839
25. Carlisle City Centre – £9,124,606
26. Plymouth City Centre – £12,046,873
27. Barnstable, North Devon – £6,548,876
28. Newton Abbot, Teignbridge – £9,025,771
29. Paignton, Torbay – £13,363,248
30. Kingswood, South Gloucestershire – £12,555,464
31. Salisbury City Centre – £9,355,301
32. Penzance, Cornwall – £10,403,112
33. Trowbridge, Wiltshire – £16,347,056
34. Yeovil – £9,756,897
35. Taunton, Somerset – £13,962,981
36. Loftus, Redcar and Cleveland – £5,833,526
37. Middlesbrough Centre – £14,170,352
38. Stockton – £16,543,812
39. South Shields – £5,959,187
40. Derby City Centre, St Peters Cross – £15,034,000
41. Sutton-in-Ashfield (Nottinghamshire) – £6,279,871
42. Grantham, South Kesteven (Lincolnshire) – £5,556,042
43. Grimsby (North East Lincolnshire) – £17,280,917
44. Nottingham City Centre, West End Point – £12,523,981
45. Heanor, Amber Valley – £8,592,837
46. Northampton – £8,427,625
47. Buxton, High Peak – £6,608,222
48. Dover Town Centre and Waterfront – £3,196,497
49. Newhaven, Lewes – £5,004,938
50. Chatham Town Centre, Medway – £9,497,720
51. Ramsgate, Thanet – £2,704,213
52. Commercial Road, Portsmouth – £3,122,375
53. Fratton, Portsmouth – £3,858,489
54. High Wycombe – £11,779,904
55. St Neots, Huntingdonshire – £3,748,815
56. March High Street, Fenland – £6,447,129
57. Great Yarmouth – £13,774,430

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Lord Grimstone letter to the professional and business services (PBS) sector

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