



Ministry of Housing,
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Local Government

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Dear Adam,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April to Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP concerning your recent joint statement on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

As you will be aware, this Government is determined to lead a programme of national renewal post-Brexit by rebuilding and reconnecting communities, driving prosperity and unleashing the potential and creativity of hardworking people in every part of our country. We know the importance of local growth funding to achieving this goal, and this is why on 4 March the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government reaffirmed to the House our commitment to creating the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The new UK Shared Prosperity Fund will tackle inequalities between communities by raising productivity, especially in those parts of the country whose economies are furthest behind. It will ensure that local areas continue to receive funding that is flexible and accommodates their needs. The publication of the recent report by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions recognises the need to tackle these inequalities and harness the economic potential of all areas across the UK, including Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly.

This Government knows the importance of providing clarity on the future of local growth funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The Government has now reached agreement with the European Union on an extension of our membership until 31 October at the latest, with the option to leave earlier as soon as a deal has been ratified. We believe that leaving with a deal is the best outcome and remain focused on ensuring our smooth and orderly withdrawal from the European Union. It is right, however, that we also continue to prepare for all scenarios, and therefore this Government continues to review our approach to consulting on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund accordingly.

Nonetheless, this Government will consult widely on the design and priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and have already conducted twenty five official-level engagement events across the UK to date, in order to hear your priorities for the Fund. This includes events in:

- Truro on 12 September 2018,
- London on 5 September 2018,
- Huddersfield on 22 October 2018,
- Cardiff on 8 November & 9 November 2018,

- St Asaph on 30 January 2019,
- South and East Midlands on 2 July 2018

I note that officials from Cornwall Council, Sheffield City Region LEP & Combined Authority, Tees Valley Combined Authority, County Durham Council, and the Greater London Authority all attended at least one of these engagement events and we appreciate your continuing engagement on the Fund. Our consultation will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to contribute their views on the design and priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and we look forward to your response.

As both the Secretary of State and I have indicated previously, the design, priorities, quantum and allocation of the Fund are matters for decision at Spending Review.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a horizontal flourish at the end.

JAKE BERRY MP

Cc: Cllr Robert Francis; Mayor Dan Jarvis; Mayor Ben Houchen; Cllr Simon Henig; Cllr Emlyn Dole, Cllr Gareth Jones; Cllr David Simpson; Cllr Huw David and Cllr Darren Rodwell.