

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Jake Berry MP
Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

31 October 2018

Dear Jake,

Thank you for your letters of June and October updating the Committee on the steps the Government is taking to improve Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) governance and accountability arrangement.

As you know, these issues of LEP scrutiny relate to recommendations the Committee made in its First Report of this session on the effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny committees. In particular, in that report we recommended that upper tier councils, and combined authorities where appropriate, should be able to monitor the performance and effectiveness of LEPs through their scrutiny committees. Furthermore, we recommended that in line with other public bodies, scrutiny committees should be able to require LEPs to provide information and attend committee meetings as required.

Taking account of the Government's response to our report, and your two subsequent correspondence on the specific issue of LEPs scrutiny, I would be grateful if you could now provide your assessment of how the Committee's two recommendations above might best be taken forward, and in particular whether guidance should now clearly require LEPs to engage with the appropriate local authorities as part of their scrutiny processes. As well as the proposed revision to government guidance on scrutiny committees which the Committee recommended, and the Government committed to update before the end of 2018, the "refresh" of the National Assurance Framework, to which you refer in your most recent letter, may also be an appropriate place to strengthen such requirements.



Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee