



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Clive Betts MP  
Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1P 3JA

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

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*Dear Clive*

### **Response to MHCLG Select Committee on Local Enterprise Partnership scrutiny**

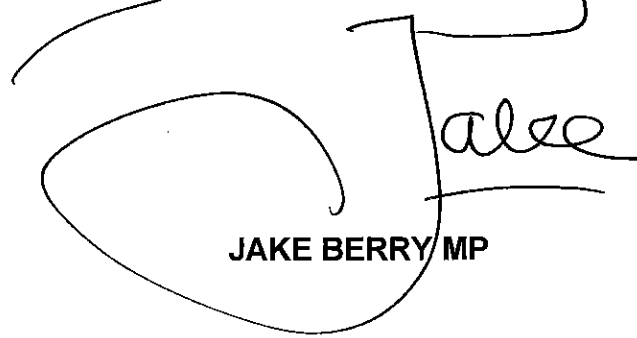
Thank you for your letter of 31 October. Further to my previous letters in June and October, I am writing to provide you with a further update on the steps the Department is taking to ensure that we support LEPs to engage in Local Authority Scrutiny.

The Government is committed to ensuring Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are accountable to the communities they represent. As set out in *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*, we will support LEPs to operate an organisational structure that supports local decision making and provides greater assurance over the management of public funding. These structures should enable clear lines of accountability for delivery with local partners, as well as democratic, public and business scrutiny of decision making.

In *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*, the Department committed to supporting LEPs to actively participate in relevant local authority scrutiny panel enquiries, ensuring effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions. This will allow the appropriate Local Authorities and Combined Authorities to monitor the performance and effectiveness of LEPs in their area.

The revised National Assurance Framework will include additional guidance to LEPs on scrutiny arrangements. This will set out how Government will support LEPs to engage with the appropriate Local Authorities, Combined Authorities and Accountable Bodies to ensure that decisions have the necessary scrutiny and expert oversight from democratic institutions. As part of this, the Department will consider the Select Committee's recommendations. We will also ensure that the revised National Assurance Framework aligns with the forthcoming guidance on overview and scrutiny for Local Authorities and Combined Authorities that is currently being produced by the Department.

The Department will be publishing the revised National Assurance Framework before the end of 2018 and I am happy to make the committee aware of the new Framework when it is published.

Yours sincerely  
  
JAKE BERRY MP