



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
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Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December, regarding the publication of the proposed consultation on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), and the publication of the Devolution Framework.

The Government recognises the important role both documents have in reassuring local areas and providing clarity on future local growth funding once we have left the European Union. We continue to progress both policy areas. Ahead of the forthcoming consultation on the UKSPF, we have held 22 engagement events across the UK with over 500 representatives from a breadth of sectors, to ensure local areas are informed and to aid policy development.

Whilst the Government remains committed to securing a good deal on exiting the European Union, it is right that we also plan for a no-deal scenario and we have therefore continued to review our approach to the UKSPF consultation accordingly. During oral questions to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 10 December 2018, the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth reaffirmed that the Government "intends to consult on the design of the UKSPF shortly," and we intend to publish the full consultation document in due course.

The Government remains committed to setting out our approach to devolution and providing clarity for local areas. We will look to publish our approach as soon as practical.

Yours ever,

RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP



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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

17 December 2018

I am writing to you regarding two documents that the Government has previously committed to publish before the end of the year.

Firstly, regarding the proposed consultation on the planned shared prosperity fund. As you know, you and I have corresponded a number of times on this issue. Most recently, in your letter to me of 3 October you reiterated the Ministry's plan to "consult widely on its design later this year, as announced in the Industrial Strategy". Most recently, the Prime Minister told the House during PMQs on 5 December that "The Government will be consulting before the end of the year."

Secondly, the Ministry has long committed to publish its devolution framework which your predecessor first announced plans for in November 2017. On 30 October the Minister for Local Government told the House that the framework would be published "towards the end of the year", while in your November 2018 speech to TheCityUK National Conference you noted that it would now be published "shortly".

While I appreciate that these are somewhat unusual times, it is nevertheless concerning that such important publications, both of which will have such an important bearing on the local government landscape over the coming years seem destined to be delayed further; I would therefore be grateful if you could now give me a firm indication of when these two documents will be published.

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