



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government
Committee www.gov.uk/mhclg
House of Commons
London
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Dear Clive

Response to MHCLG Select Committee on Local Enterprise Partnership scrutiny

In my letter on the 7 June 2018, I committed to provide you with an update on the actions we are taking to strengthen Local Enterprise Partnership (LEPs) governance and accountability arrangements following the conclusion of the Ministerial led review into LEPs. We have now completed this work and on 24 July 2018 Government published 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' which sets out the conclusions of our policy review:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728058/Strengthened_Local_Enterprise_Partnerships.pdf

Government has clearly set out its expectations of LEPs' roles and responsibilities. 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' sets out how Government will support LEPs to strengthen leadership and capability, improve accountability and manage risk, and provide clarity on geography.

We are committed to ensuring LEPs are accountable to the communities they represent. The publication sets out how the structures of LEPs should enable clear lines of accountability for delivery with local partners, as well as ensuring that there is democratic scrutiny of decision making which is transparent to the public and business community.

Government will support all LEPs to set out how they will ensure external scrutiny and expert oversight, including participating in relevant local authority scrutiny panel enquiries to ensure effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions.

LEPs are required to write a Local Assurance Framework in line with the National Assurance Framework guidance available on the gov.uk website. The Department will be undertaking a refresh of its National Assurance Framework in autumn 2018. As part of this refresh, we will be providing additional advice to LEPs on scrutiny arrangements. We will continue to encourage LEPs to share best practice and operate as a self regulating sector to drive

improvements in governance and delivery whilst Government will retain accountability and oversight over the system as a whole. As part of this, the Department will undertake deep dives, spot checks, and Annual Performance Assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Yours sincerely

JAKE BERRY MP