

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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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

27 June 2018

Dear James,

Many thanks for your response of 14 July as part of our ongoing correspondence related to the Committee's work on Brexit and local government. It is likely the Committee will hold a further evidence session on this topic before the summer recess. However, in advance of that session I would be grateful for your response to a number of follow up points.

EU funding

In your response, you refer to "specific arrangements" introduced from Autumn 2016 to support assessing whether EU projects support domestic priorities and offer good value for money. I would be grateful if you could clarify what these specific arrangements are. Furthermore, please could you provide details of what opportunities you have introduced for local government and other stakeholders to advise departments on local priorities and value for money, to which you also refer.

Departmental workstreams to implement Brexit

It is unclear to the Committee how a list of the ten workstreams for which MGCLG is responsible would risk undermining negotiations with the EU. As you note, the summary already indicates areas of particular focus, and some examples. I would therefore be grateful if you could specify what these ten workstreams are.

Devolution of powers

You invited views from the Committee on the how repatriated powers can be devolved further. I will discuss with the Committee what more work we may wish to do on this particular issue. However, as you will be aware, this was also a subject of discussion with witnesses at our evidence sessions in December and March. In particular I would draw to your attention questions 13-16 and 38-46 of our [6 December 2017](#) session, and questions 57-71 of our [19 March](#) session. You will also be aware of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's work on devolution and exiting the EU. In particular, the Committee has held evidence sessions with metro mayors on [22 May](#) and [4 June](#) and I would encourage you to take account of that evidence and any forthcoming report from that Committee in your considerations on this issue. The Committee also heard from the Mayor of London earlier this week on this issue.

Representation of local government in the Brexit negotiations

Finally, you mention at the very end of your letter your intention to establish a Ministerial Local Government Advisory Board. I would be grateful if you could provide more information on the planned operation and establishment of the Board, in particular (a) when it will be established, (b) when it first plans to meet and with what frequency, (c) what its role and remit will be and (d) what its membership will be.

Many thanks for your ongoing engagement with the Committee on these issues. I would appreciate a response to the above questions by 11 July so that the information may feed into our planned evidence session before the summer recess. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committees, who originally requested the departmental workstreams information, the Chair of the Liaison Committee, as other committees may have sought further information on these workstreams as well, and to the Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee to draw attention to your request for views on how repatriated powers can be devolved further.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts', with a large, stylized initial 'C' at the start.

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee