



**Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government**

Clive Betts MP  
Chair  
Committee for Housing, Communities and  
Local Government  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**  
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and  
Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local  
Government**  
4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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

29<sup>th</sup> July 2019

*Dear Clive,*

On Saturday in Manchester, the Prime Minister set out this government's plan to unite and level up across our country, turbo-charging our cities, our towns, our coastal communities and rural areas.

We must drive productivity in our great cities, achieving a step change in connectivity and infrastructure underpinned by the devolution of powers to Mayors. We must make the benefits of Brexit tangible to people everywhere by devolving more power and giving people more control over decisions in their area.

The government has, therefore, committed to the Leeds to Manchester route of Northern Powerhouse Rail and working with more areas on bus franchising powers to boost local connectivity. We have also pledged to increase the number of regional Mayors and their powers, and level up powers between the Mayors so that more people can benefit from the kind of local government structures seen in London and Manchester and have more say over the transport, housing, public services and infrastructure that will drive local growth.

We recognise, however, that not everyone wants to live in our great cities. Our post-industrial towns or coastal communities also deserve to share more in the proceeds of growth. We must ensure that all of our communities are great places to live and work, investing in transport or broadband connectivity and social and cultural infrastructure like libraries, parks and arts centres.

That is why we have committed to £3.6bn to support an initial 100 town deals. This represents an additional £1.325bn of funding in England to bolster the objectives of the Future High Streets and Stronger Towns Funds. We want to maximise the impact of these two funds and the flexibility within them to fund the best projects. Our announcement of extra funding in England means that, as a result of the Barnett formula, the devolved governments will have an additional share of investment which will be confirmed as a result of the forthcoming Spending Review. Furthermore, we are supporting the expansion of growth deals, in partnership with the Territorial Offices, to cover every part of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, supported by £300m new funding. We will also bring forward plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

I will set out more details on this exciting programme of work in due course and look forward to coming back to Parliament to discuss them after the Summer recess.

*Robert Jenrick*

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP**

*I look forward to working together! Trust you  
are having a relaxing recess.*