28 June 2018

Jake Berry MP
Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building, 2 Marsham St
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Jake

European Social Fund

The Government’s response to the Committee’s report on the European Social Fund (ESF) made clear it aspires to taking the opportunity to replace the ESF with something better. This is hugely welcome.

The Committee was concerned, however, by the absence of detail on the Government’s plans to achieve this. In particular, the response did not confirm that there will be no gap between existing and new funding streams. The response also failed to address our request for a timetable for the creation of a replacement fund. This will be of considerable and understandable concern among providers and those who rely on vital employment and skills support. The need for urgent reassurance that ESF will not be forgotten amid the Brexit process shone through in our evidence.

1. Are you please able to commit to there being no gap in funding between the ESF and it successor?

2. The response states that the Government intends to conduct a public consultation “later in the year”. Can you be a bit more specific than that?

3. Are you able to give any insights into the timetable after then?

With best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair

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