



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

12 October 2022

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 September regarding the proposed Investment Zones announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Committee would welcome further detailed information regarding the proposed Investment Zones. Our initial questions are as follows:

1. Does the Government intend to allocate funding for the new Investment Zones, and if so, how much? If not, how much, if any, of existing funding for Levelling Up will contribute to the Investment Zones, and which funding pot(s) will this come from?
2. How will the proposed Investment Zones impact planning authorities and affordable housing provisions? And what assurances can the Government provide that the Chancellor's intention to ['liberalise'](#) planning rules for the Zones will not disregard current wildlife and environmental protections?
3. Can you share the metrics that will be used both to assess applications and to measure the success of these zones. We understand that there are thirty-eight areas which have provided an expression of interest. It would be helpful to know how decisions will be taken to select areas which will be eligible for an Investment Zone.

It would be helpful if the Committee could receive as much information as possible on the above and on proposed changes to Levelling Up and any implications that the proposed Investment Zones may have on Levelling Up policy as it stands. The Committee will soon inquire into funding for levelling up and will be scrutinising further how funds are allocated. Therefore, the information we are requesting will be very helpful to provide a basis for our work. Furthermore, we will be raising this issue when you appear before the Committee on 24 October. As such, we would appreciate a response by 19 October.

Best wishes,

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee