



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Dehenna Davison MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Levelling Up)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

12 October 2022

Dear Dehenna,

Congratulations on your appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Levelling Up). The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee looks forward to working with you and meeting you formally in the near future. Before then, I am writing in relation to concerns regarding funding for levelling up.

[The Growth Plan](#), which was debated on 23 September, has involved some media speculation regarding how the announced Investment Zones will be funded. This includes speculation about whether or not existing funding pots will be combined in order to streamline funding for the Zones and whether the Zones will be funded through additional or existing funding allocations for Levelling Up.

The Levelling Up White Paper acknowledges that the funding landscape for levelling up is complex. It states that “[I]nitial steps have been taken to address this complexity” but that there is “more that could be done”. When we took evidence from Andy Haldane, then Head of the Levelling Up Task Force at the Cabinet Office, he stated that he would argue for “streamlining simplification, removing of ring fences, lengthening of duration, and moving to formula needs-based criteria”. Given the Government’s previously stated intention to streamline levelling up funding and the speculation regarding how the new Investment Zones will be funded, the Committee seeks answers to the following questions:

- Does DLUHC still intend to consolidate levelling up funds and if so, which funds will be amalgamated to simplify funding?
- If so, when will these changes come into effect?
- Do you anticipate any changes to funding having an impact on areas that have already been allocated funding from implicated pots of funding?
- Will any of the allocated funds for the Investment Zones only be available to the designated Zones in the future?
- Will any new combined funding be competitively based?



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It would be helpful if the Committee could receive as much information as possible on the above and proposed changes to funding for levelling up.

The Committee is soon to 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. As such, we would appreciate a response by 21 October.

Best wishes,

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