



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Clive Betts MP
Housing, Communities and Local Government
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1P 3JA

Luke Hall MP
*Minister for Regional Growth and Local
Government*

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

Tel: 0303 444 3440
Email: luke.hall@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

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Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 September, to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, regarding the timeframe for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. I appreciate how important this matter is to you and I am grateful to you for contacting my Department with your concerns. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

We recognise the importance of reassuring local areas on the future of local growth funding and of providing clarity on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Final decisions on the design and operation of the UKSPF will be made following a cross-Government Spending Review.

This Government is committed to ensuring that, at a minimum, the UKSPF will match current levels of funding for each nation. It will be driven by domestic priorities with a focus on investing in people. This builds upon previous commitments to create a simplified, integrated fund which cuts out bureaucracy and tackles inequalities between communities by raising productivity, especially in those parts of the UK whose economies are furthest behind.

Under the terms of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, the UK continues to participate in EU annual budgets under the current Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020). This means that EU funding for UK participants and projects are unaffected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU for the entire lifetime of such programmes and projects. As a result, England and the devolved administrations continue to have access to the same level of funding as they would have done if the UK was a member state.

We are working to ensure that there is a seamless transition from current EU funding arrangements to the UKSPF as EU Structural Fund investment tails off over the coming years.

Yours ever,

LUKE HALL MP