

Rt Hon. Stephen Timms MP  
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

21 June 2021

Dear Stephen,

**Covid Local Support Grant – Extending the current arrangements**

The Covid Local Support Grant (previously known as the Covid Winter Grant Scheme) has enabled Local Authorities in England to support families across the country who are struggling with the cost of food and utility bills as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The scheme has run from 1<sup>st</sup> December with a total investment of over £269m so far. Between 1<sup>st</sup> December and 16<sup>th</sup> April, Local Authorities had spent over £225m, over 92% of which was to support families with children.

This temporary support, which is designed to help families through an unprecedented period, is now being extended for a final time until 30<sup>th</sup> September with an additional investment of £160m. The scheme is being extended beyond the planned ending of restrictions, to help families get back on their feet as the economy recovers and the vaccine rollout continues. Well-paid work is the best route out of poverty and that is why we have a Plan for Jobs.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Will Quince MP**

**Minister for Welfare Delivery**