



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Mr Andrew Smith
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Cc. richard.harrington@btvlep.co.uk

5 November 2019

Dear Andrew,

Implementation of the *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships* recommendations

Following the publication of the LEP Review and revised assurance framework, we wanted to write in response to a number of pieces of correspondence received and feedback given to officials through the recent mid-year review process.

The National Local Growth Assurance Framework confirmed the process for compliance with the recommendations in the Review. In particular, the requirements of two thirds private board membership, one third female appointed board members and a maximum board size of twenty permanent members, are due to be reached by the end of the 2019-2020 financial year.

Due to the time already afforded to LEPs to ensure these targets are achieved, exemptions and/or extensions to this deadline will not be considered and hence any remaining issues will become relevant to the Annual Performance Review process.

Similarly, we are also clear that boundary overlaps must be removed. Confirmation of your boundaries is essential as we move forward and look to the introduction of the UKSPF, as well as to provide the necessary clarity of accountability for spending. Therefore, where it is still relevant, we would be grateful for a confirmed final proposal from you by 12 December. On the assumption that you provide this confirmed solution we will, in recognition of where we are in the financial year, pay one reduced amount of capacity grant funding. If you are unable to reply by then or do not believe additional time will lead to a resolution, there will be no further funding and we will look to set out a way forward at the soonest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON JAKE BERRY MP
Minister for the Northern
Powerhouse and Local Growth

NADHIM ZAHAWI MP
Minister for Business and Industry