

6th December 2017

Jake Berry MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth
Department for Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Margot James MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET

Andrew Jones MP

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Dear Jake, Margot and Andrew

Local Enterprise Partnerships - driving local economic growth for a more prosperous Britain

The 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) welcome the publication of the Industrial Strategy. LEPs are strategic bodies, bringing together leaders from business, local government, education and other key local stakeholders to drive private sector led growth, and achieve economic opportunities as well as addressing challenges at a local level.

LEPs are hugely supportive of the government's ambition as set out in the Industrial Strategy, and the five foundations of productivity: ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places. LEPs bring together the organisations with responsibility for taking action in each of these areas. We are further empowered by the Industrial Strategy to deploy our convening role to galvanise action at pace in a local area through: the development of Local Industrial Strategies; the establishment of Skills Advisory Panels; our involvement in Sector Deals and High Potential Opportunities; and the continuation of our hugely successful Growth Hubs recently reporting to have cumulatively worked with almost 600,000 businesses.

The high calibre of the business leaders on our boards is critically important. The delivery of the strategy at a local level will be based on the best possible business intelligence including an understanding of the barriers to growth that businesses face and what interventions at a local level can help to overcome those barriers. LEPs are uniquely well-placed to collect that evidence and use it to set the strategic direction of local economies and ensure that action results.



The emphasis on place is critically important. Action on the five foundations of productivity will be most effective because of our unique convening role. We bring partners together to lead the delivery of the relevant programmes at a local level, and shape priorities to maximise their cumulative impact. We have close working relationships with our local business representative organisations, and a wide range of stakeholders from education and other sectors.

Our engagement with local councils and the role of local political leaders on our boards is crucial to delivering this place dimension. Councils' planning, education, infrastructure and housing responsibilities combined with their community leadership role complement our focus on productivity and business expertise. LEPs are effective because we enable business and political leaders to work in tandem.

We share the government's enthusiasm for "deals" as a framework for delivering the action required to enable growth. We envisage that Local Industrial Strategies will provide the basis for a new generation of place-based growth deals. If we are to deploy our leadership, convening and integrating role to the full we must have access to funding for programmes rather than projects, with medium term financial certainty. We are looking for a cross-Whitehall conversation. Improvements to productivity nationally and locally will be achieved only if all government departments are open to respond to the ambitious Local Industrial Strategies that we will be bringing forward.

As locally-based partnerships we fully appreciate the need for transparency and accountability in our decision making and reporting. We are all committed to continue producing clear annual reports and accounting statements that demonstrate the value we have added and how public money has been utilised. We will all be testing our governance arrangements to ensure they comply with the recommendations of the Ney Review. Those LEPs which are not incorporated and are not part of a combined authority are committed to working with government to understand the implications of adopting incorporated models. We are keen to actively contribute to the LEP review to ensure that we are well-placed to lead the local delivery of the Industrial Strategy.

We look forward to working with you during the course of the Review, and welcome ongoing opportunities to feed in our views, and to implementing the recommendations of the Review process. Please find attached an independent report which has been commissioned to help inform the LEP Review.

Yours sincerely

The 37 Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs and London's Business Deputy Chair

Stewart Towe CBE	Chair, Black Country LEP
Andrew Smith	Chair, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP
Christine Gaskell MBE DL	Chair, Cheshire & Warrington LEP
Tim Wates	Chair, Coast to Capital LEP
Mark Duddridge	Chair, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly LEP
Jonathan Browning	Chair, Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
George Beveridge	Chair, Cumbria LEP
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Jim Stewart	Chair, Dorset LEP
Dr Mike Short CBE	Chair, Enterprise M3 LEP
Dr Diane Savory OBE	Chair, GFirst LEP

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Nick Pulley	Chair, Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
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