



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety*

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

2 Marsham Street
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Cllr Keith Cunliffe
National Chair
Industrial Communities Alliance
Regent Street
Barnsley
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Dear Cllr Cunliffe

Thank you for your letter of 5 October to the Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP about Investment Zones. Please accept my apologies for the delay in coming back to you.

I am grateful to you for getting in touch. The Investment Zones programme had aims of accelerating housing and commercial development the UK needs to drive economic growth.

Following the appointment of the new Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and the Chancellor have reviewed the programme and can now confirm that Investment Zone policy is going to be refocused on productivity, improving growth and job creation. The previous Expressions of Interest process will not be taken forwards as a result.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will work closely with mayors, devolved administrations, local authorities, businesses and other local partners to consider how best to identify and support these clusters. Further details on the programme will be announced shortly.

Whilst we are still considering next steps, the Government has been very clear that we will not weaken environmental protections.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours ever,

LEE ROWLEY MP