



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Alex Norris MP

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2025/11231

Councillor Keith Cunliffe
National Chair of the Industrial Communities
Alliance

30 April 2025

Dear Councillor Cunliffe,

Thank you for your letter of 10 April regarding the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

We recognise that the proud history of our coalfields communities must be matched with a proud future. Indeed, the community wealth building model established by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust has no doubt made great progress towards this.

We are also working in partnership to invest in and empower the nation's coalfields, so that they can kickstart growth in their area, and increase living standards.

That's why we have already announced planning reforms, devolution, our plans to make work pay, and settlements to fix the foundations of local government. This will all support coalfields to build their future.

Our new Plan for Neighbourhoods is part of this government's plan to ensure that nowhere is left behind. It will help revitalise local areas and fight deprivation at root cause by zeroing in on three goals: thriving places, stronger communities, and taking back control. No one knows the priorities of the community better than those who live and work there, which is why our Plan for Neighbourhoods will empower local people to take back control of their future with a long-term, flexible funding pot of up to £20 million of funding and support over the next 10 years.

The Plan for Neighbourhoods will be supporting coalfield communities including Mansfield, Worksop, Newark-on-Trent, Chesterfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Jarrow, Washington, Leigh, Farnworth, Castleford, Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley, Merthyr Tydfil and Wrexham.

Furthermore, this Government is working with mayors to produce local growth plans across the city regions that sit alongside coalfield communities - areas vital to our economic future. This includes working with the Mayors of the West of England, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, and South Yorkshire, all of whom would agree that coalfield communities must play an important role in the growth of their regions.

We remain committed to the Government's mission to kickstart economic growth. The Government will consider the request made for funding by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust

alongside other spending proposals at HM Treasury's 2025 multi-year spending review, and I am pleased be meeting with Andy Lock and Kevin Larkin to discuss the work of the CRT in advance of this.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Alex Norris', with a stylized, flowing script.

ALEX NORRIS MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth