



Industrial Communities Alliance

The all-party association campaigning on behalf of local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales

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Alex Norris MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Email to: ministerial.correspondence@communities.gov.uk

29 August 2024

Dear Alex,

Funding for local and regional development

Many thanks for your prompt response (2 August) to my letter to Angela Rayner regarding the need for an early announcement on the future of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Could I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your ministerial appointment, and to express my hope that we can renew the working relationship we established back in Nottingham a few years ago.

As you will be aware, I chair the Industrial Communities Alliance – the association representing local authorities in the older industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales. Funding for local and regional development is central to our concerns. This is, of course, one of your ministerial responsibilities.

We've put together a number of proposals, set out in the attached booklet. You may have seen an earlier version circulating in the spring. The present version has been updated. It's important to emphasise that a lot of discussion lies behind what we're putting forward – among elected members and officers from our member authorities, and indeed with officials in your own department and the Treasury. And let me emphasise, we're not asking for more money.

It would be good to have an early discussion with you. We recognise of course that the key decisions will come with the Spending Review. For the moment it would be good to exchange thoughts, and perhaps help identify practical ways forward.


I'm aware too that our colleague Jo Platt – who is actually my MP – has been exploring the possibility of your involvement in a Westminster event on the theme of funding. It would be good if something could also be arranged with her.

If we were to arrange a meeting I'd hope to bring along our National Director, Prof Steve Fothergill, who is something of an expert on the details of all the funding streams. I think you may have met him a couple of years ago when you were part of Lisa's team.

If you were willing to meet, could I suggest that your staff contact our National Secretariat to try to arrange a suitable slot. The contact details are in the letterhead.

I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully to seeing you soon.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cllr Keith Cunliffe
National Chair