



## Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

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## Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

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23 January 2018

Dear LEP Chair,

Thank you for the ongoing work and commitment of your LEP. You have continued to demonstrate how business and civic leaders, working in partnership with universities and colleges, can help drive growth across the country. As you are aware, we have recently launched our Industrial Strategy which places LEPs at the heart of this Government's plan to drive local growth. This includes a commitment from the Prime Minister to meet bi-annually with a Council of LEP Chairs to hear views on we can best support you. Furthermore, to support our ambition for a strengthened role of LEPs during this Parliament, we have been leading a review into the future role of LEPs.

Through this process we have heard from you about the opportunities that multi-year funding certainty would bring in allowing LEPs to fully capitalise on the different strengths and opportunities in their communities. We are therefore pleased to confirm the availability of LEP core and capacity funding of £500,000 per annum for the next two financial years. As with previous years, we will continue to require LEPs to match fund this locally to a minimum of £250,000.

Funding for 2018-19 will be provided to each LEP at the start of the financial year. This will be contingent on continued compliance with the LEP National Assurance Framework and confirmation that the relevant recommendations of the Mary Ney review have been implemented.

For 2019-20 core funding, which is indicative, LEPs will need to demonstrate how they meet the above conditions and how they have taken forward the outcomes of the Ministerial Review of LEPs.

To build on the success of LEPs we recognise that local economies are reliant on strong businesses to provide sustainable private sector-led growth and job creation. Growth Hubs have been a central instrument in achieving this goal. We are therefore able to confirm continued support for Growth Hubs with allocations remaining at current levels over the next two years. This letter confirms LEP funding for this spending review – further funding beyond this period will be considered and notified to you at a later date.

Thank you again for your continued support on this agenda. Officials in the Cities and Local Growth Unit will follow up over the next couple of weeks to set out more detail on the processes for accessing this funding.

**JAKE BERRY MP AND ANDREW GRIFFITHS MP**