

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Via email: milton.ps@education.gov.uk

19 December 2018

Dear Anne

LGA Skills Taskforce

As you know from our discussions in February and June this year, the Local Government Association (LGA) and its members are committed to leading and supporting efforts to coordinate the post 16 skills system locally. This is a key recommendation in *Work Local*, the LGA's ambitious and practical vision for devolved and integrated employment and skills provision.

Since our last meeting, we have started to engage a wide-range of industry representatives and stakeholders. This is because a partnership approach is critical to identifying how we can bring together services to address the skills and employment challenges and opportunities of Brexit and the ambitions of the Industrial Strategy.

In order to explore the practical steps needed to do this, we have launched an LGA Skills Taskforce. Made up of senior elected members, its role is to bring together industry experts and sector representatives with the aim of understanding how we can combine efforts nationally and locally. Our first roundtable, *local coordination of a fragmented employment and skills system*, took place earlier this month. A further two will consider:

- Careers and retraining for a changing local economy
- The future of work: how changing skills needs of sector-specific industries will play out in the local economy.

We intend to publish the findings of this work next summer, and would be pleased to share any early learnings with you and your officials to best understand how we can work with Government's plans.

If you would like to meet to discuss this, or your officials would be interested in speaking to LGA officers, please get in touch with Jasbir Jhas (jasbir.jhas@local.gov.uk, 02076643114) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE
Chairman, LGA People and Places Board



Cllr Sir Richard Leese CBE
Chair, LGA City Regions Board