

15 September 2010

Item 2 Annex A



Mark Prisk MP
Minister of State for Business and Enterprise
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

31 August 2010

Dear Mr Prisk

You will be aware that councils and the Local Government Group have strongly supported the Government's policy on Local Enterprise Partnerships. The many submissions that were put forward well in advance of the 6 September deadline are testament to the sector's ambition, working closely with local businesses, to create new jobs and grow their local economies.

You will also be aware that the LG Group's vision for LEPs is a wide-ranging one. They will need to provide joint business and local authority leadership on the full range of interlinked issues that affect local economies, such as local transport provision and infrastructure investment, planning decisions, businesses' skills needs and the shape of publically-funded employment and training provision.

I understand you will have an introductory meeting with Baroness Eaton in September to discuss Spending Review issues. The newly appointed Chair of the Economy and Transport Programme Board, Cllr Peter Box, and I would very much appreciate the opportunity, shortly after this, to hold an in depth discussion with you that focuses specifically on the progress to date and future development of LEPs. Creating successful Local Enterprise Partnerships is vital for the future growth of our economy, but it will also require strong leadership from both national and local politicians.

I have copied this letter to Greg Clark MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim Harker'.

Cllr Jim Harker
Vice-Chair, LGA Economy & Transport Programme Board