

Baroness Hanham CBE
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

27 January 2011

Dear Baroness Hanham

European Regional Development Fund

Thank you for your response of 13 January 2011 to my letter on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and for offering to meet to discuss the issue further.

I have asked my officials to contact yours to find a suitable time. In view of the importance of ERDF to councils, I think it is important that all political parties are represented at the meeting, and to this end I would also like the Deputy and Vice Chairs of the LG Group Economy and Transport Board to attend, and have copied this letter to them.

Thank you for highlighting Sir Bob Kerslake's letter and policy proposals for managing ERDF once Regional Development Agencies (RDA) are abolished.

My officers have responded to this. We welcome the general direction set out by the policy paper; in particular that local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) will play a greater role in shaping spending, but remain concerned, however, that there may not be sufficient match-funding to draw down the remaining ERDF held in the programmes.

We are keen to work with you on finding a way forward and hope to meet soon.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Peter Box
Chair of LG Group Economy and Transport Programme Board

Copied to: Councillor Jim Harker, Vice Chair
Councillor Richard Knowles, Deputy Chair
Councillor Andrew Cooper, Deputy Chair