

Karen Bradley MP,
Secretary of State,
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

1 December

Dear Secretary of State,

European Capital of Culture 2023

We are writing to ask you to provide clarity about whether UK cities remain eligible to bid to host the European Capital of Culture in 2023, as planned.

We appreciate that the referendum decision has created uncertainty in many areas. However, this is a pressing matter due to the level of planning and investment required, and you will appreciate that many of our cities have already been preparing for months in expectation of a bidding process opening at the end of 2016.

Councils recognise the value of investing in culture, amply demonstrated by Liverpool's success as Capital of Culture in 2008. Cultural investment can bring communities together, attract new businesses, and create a compelling narrative of place that appeals to both domestic and international tourists.

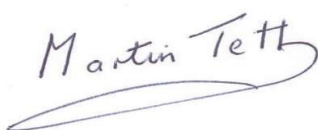
However, both councils and their business partners need some assurances of the platform they will have to showcase their work, so that they can plan and invest accordingly.

We hope that you will consider the issue as a point of urgency and be able to provide clarity on the position.

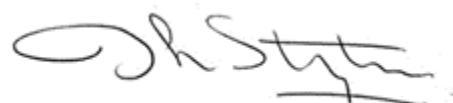
If you intend to launch the bidding process, we urge you to do so as soon as possible so that councils and their partners can develop the best possible bids to showcase their areas and the wider UK.

We have separately written to you about delivering the keynote speech at our annual culture, tourism and sport conference on 23rd February and, although you are unable to attend in person, hope you will be able to be represented by one of your ministers.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Martin Tett
Chairman, LGA Economy, Environment,
Housing and Transport Board



Cllr Ian Stephens
Chairman, LGA Culture, Tourism & Sport Board