

From the Chairman of the Association
Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell

Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

10 April 2014

Dear Sajid,

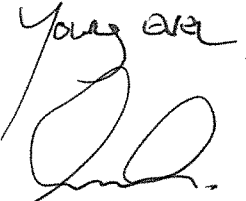
I am delighted to see you joining the Cabinet - particularly because your new portfolio is one so close to local government's heart. The LGA is very much looking forward to working with you in your new role and keeping up what has become a very strong relationship between the LGA and DCMS.

It is only a month since your predecessor addressed our Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Portsmouth, and fulsomely acknowledged what she described as the 'vital role' of local authorities. From broadband rollout to the visitor economy and the economic impact of investing in the arts, we have been working together with your Department to emphasise the sector's contribution to economic growth.

I was very pleased to meet Sir Terry Farrell a couple of weeks ago to discuss the excellent report Ed Vaizey commissioned from him highlighting the potential for councils to promote good design in the built environment, and LGA colleagues just yesterday met William Sieghart, who is reviewing public libraries for both your Department and Eric's.

Councils are one of the principal public funders of the sectors DCMS is responsible for: austerity makes good joint working between us and the Department and its arm's length bodies ever more important.

I very much look forward to discussing how you will want to take these issues forward as Secretary of State, and how the LGA can help. My office will be in touch with yours in the hope of arranging an early meeting.

Yours ever,


Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell