



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Jacob Young MP**  
*Minister for Levelling Up*  
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Our reference: MC2023/00719

Mark Bretton MBE TD  
Chair, LEP Network  
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30 Oct 23

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September on behalf of the 36 Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs and CEOs, and for your kind remarks on my appointment as Levelling Up Minister.

As you say, from my own experience, I fully recognise the value of the local business community and the importance of embedding a strong independent business voice into local democratic institutions to help shape policies for local areas in a meaningful way.

I recognise your concerns about the need to ensure consistency across local authorities delivering business representation and local economic planning functions. That is why we will be issuing further guidance to relevant upper tier local authorities on both interrelated functions by January 2024. We realise time is pressing and we will provide further clarity on our expectations as soon as possible. In the interim, the joint DLUHC/DBT area teams are working closely with key players in their areas to help ensure a smooth transfer of functions.

Regarding the provision of business support through Growth Hubs, and skills support through Skills Bootcamps and Careers Hubs, officials in my department are working closely with their counterparts in the Department for Business and Trade and the Department for Education. We want to ensure that the transfer of responsibility for this support is as smooth as possible, and that current levels of quality and coverage are maintained. As you will know, the level of funding for Growth Hubs for 2024/25 is subject to spending decisions by the Department for Business and Trade, but I understand every effort is being made to confirm funding as soon as practicable.

I am hugely grateful to the LEP Network for the support it has given us to date in helping us manage the transition of LEP functions to combine and local authorities and look forward to continuing our partnership working in the period ahead. As you will appreciate, we are unable

to confirm our funding for the LEP Network in 2024-25 just yet, but we will provide further detail in due course.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Regards,



**JACOB YOUNG MP**  
*Minister for Levelling Up*