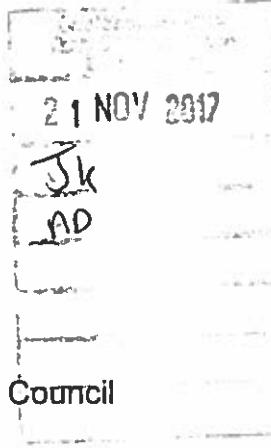




**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

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Our Ref: 3529874
Your ref: AD/LMcG

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 18 October to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP about a City Deal for the Derry/Londonderry City Region. I am replying as Minister for Local Growth.

The Government has committed to working with key stakeholders to agree a comprehensive and ambitious set of City Deals in Northern Ireland. This Government has been clear that City Deals must start at the grassroots. I am therefore encouraged to hear about the work that Derry City and Strabane Council are doing to develop a draft statement of intent for a potential City Deal for the Derry/Londonderry City Region.

I understand that Lord Duncan of the Northern Ireland Office has replied to you, indicating that in the first instance it would be helpful to arrange a meeting with officials from both the Northern Ireland Office and my Department to discuss your work so far and next steps. I would be very happy to come to Derry/Londonderry to meet with you, to try and achieve progress in the discussions. I would like to hear from you if you feel this would be helpful.

In relation to any reference to a potential City Deal for the Derry/Londonderry City Region in the Budget, as with all Budget decisions this will ultimately be a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to decide upon. I understand that Lord Duncan will be passing on your suggestion to Her Majesty's Treasury for consideration.

Yours sincerely
Jake
JAKE BERRY MP