

To
The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary for State for Communities and Local Government
DCLG
4th Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

20 September 2019

Dear Sajid

It has been an unsettling time for many North East businesses following local devolution decisions and I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Government that the North East LEP remains committed to continuing to deliver for all our stakeholders. We are keen to ensure that business leadership and engagement remain at the heart of strategic economic growth. It is now more important than ever, post-Brexit and with uncertainty around devolution in the North East, that business leadership through the North East LEP is front and centre of this agenda for the region.

The North East LEP has a focused and ambitious Strategic Economic Plan, overseen by a strong and effective Board, which strives to provide the leadership to facilitate local economic growth. Since 2010 the local economy has grown at a steady pace with sustained annual growth rates at around 3% per annum, the highest levels of employment recorded, business growth in key sectors and rising levels of qualification in our workforce.

The North East LEP also has a successful track record of fund management and delivery, vindicated by our year one Growth Deal programme, Growing Places and Regional Growth Funding. We have submitted an evidenced and focused programme for Local Growth Fund Round Three and are committed to ensuring that business-led strategic investment decisions are made to enable the strategic economic growth of the North East. The current robust governance structure and audited Assurance Framework for Local Growth Funding provides Government with the confidence to continue to allocate funding to the North East LEP in the current round.

We will continue to work with partners, both public and private, to lead and facilitate economic growth on behalf of the North East, and I am always available to meet to ensure alignment of our priorities.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hodgson
Chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership