



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Paul Scully MP**

*Minister of State for Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities and Minister for London*



HM Treasury

**Lucy Frazer QC MP**

*Financial Secretary to the Treasury*

Dear Chief Executive,

## **COVID-19 ADDITIONAL RELIEF FUND**

In December 2021, the government published guidance, including individual local authority funding allocations for the £1.5 billion COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) scheme. In late December, the Secretary of State wrote to councils recognising the pressures on local government and asking councils to consider what steps could be taken to urgently streamline the approval and delivery processes to enable business to quickly benefit from the support available.

We would like to recognise and thank colleagues for your work so far in awarding this much-needed support to businesses. We know that many councils have already awarded support and publicised the CARF scheme using webinars and awareness-raising campaigns. As you know, we have also been collecting information on local delivery, including on the number of local schemes approved, businesses helped, and support awarded. Nevertheless, in some cases local implementation has not rolled out as quickly as we would have hoped.

We therefore strongly encourage councils to consider options to increase the speed of delivery of their schemes to ensure local businesses can benefit from the support available. Ways to improve take-up among local businesses could include:

- Raising awareness through your communication channels
- Considering automatically awarding relief to eligible ratepayers
- Contacting businesses directly and encouraging them to apply for support

We will continue to collect and monitor data on local implementation (through DELTA), as set out in the guidance. This data will be published shortly.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Scully MP**  
Minister of State for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities and Minister  
for London



**Lucy Frazer QC MP**  
Financial Secretary to the Treasury