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Support package for local firms and families to rebuild their communities

We have all been appalled by the criminal behaviour on our streets last week. I must congratulate you and all affected local authorities for the way in which you have responded so quickly and efficiently to the disturbances. It is a testament to your Authority that many of the streets were cleared even before people went to work the following morning.

You and your communities will be facing short term pressures arising in the immediate aftermath of the disturbances. The Prime Minister announced last week that the Government will be supporting affected local authorities by providing a multi-million pound package of measures with which you can help support your communities and businesses recover.

I am now writing to provide details on how you can claim against this package of recovery funding that has been put together by my Department, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and HM Treasury.

The package of support includes:

- **A £10m recovery fund** to help you with the immediate costs of making their areas safe, clear and clean again. This fund can be used, for example, to clear debris left strewn in streets and make immediate repairs to pavements and roads. This Recovery scheme can also be used in support of council tax discounts or council tax relief to those whose homes have been damaged but are still habitable.
- **A £20m High Street Support Scheme** - funded jointly by the Departments for Communities and Local Government, and Business Innovation and Skills, which will be made available immediately, for the streets and areas where businesses were affected by the rioting. The money is intended to finance those measures that will get business trading again and meet short term costs, including reimbursing you for reducing business rates, financing building repairs and encouraging customers back to the affected areas. Specifically, the fund is being provided to help fund the costs to local authorities of providing Business Rate Hardship Relief; and to help businesses

for example with their cash flow problems whilst they wait for insurance or other claims to be met.

- **Re-housing funding** to meet the immediate costs of emergency accommodation for families who have been made homeless by the disturbances.

The details on how to make a claim against each of these schemes, the eligibility criteria, and your responsibilities for accountability is set out in the attached set of guidance. Claims will need to be submitted by the scheme closing date set out in the guidance, but we will make payments as soon as we get claims from authorities. You will, of course need to have systems in place to assist with transparency and to prevent double-counting.

- Guidance on Recovery Scheme
- Guidance on High Street Support Scheme
- Guidance on Rehousing Fund

In addition, we need to ensure that criminals are not benefiting from support to genuinely deserving people. Grant Shapps wrote to the leaders of all stock-holding local authorities yesterday extending the scope of our consultation on strengthening the hands of landlords to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour and criminality (see the copy of the letter attached or got to: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/antisocialbehaviourconsult.)

I am keen to work closely with you over the coming months. Our first priority has been to support you in the immediate recovery effort. If you would find it helpful, I would be happy to meet with you in the Autumn to discuss our next steps.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Pickles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP