



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP**  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities  
and for Local Government

***Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government***

Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Cllr Tudor Evans OBE  
Leader of Plymouth City Council  
Plymouth City Council  
Civic Centre  
Plymouth  
PL1 2AA

Tel: 0303 444 3460

Email:  
james.brokenshire@communities.gsi.gov.uk

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

30 October 2018

Dear Councillor Evans,

### **Plymouth City Council's Sustainable Communities Act 2007 Proposal**

Thank you for your letter of 28 August, and Plymouth City Council's Sustainable Communities Act 2007 proposal.

I have considered Plymouth's proposal, and decided not to implement it. Ministers have a specific responsibility, which Parliament has endorsed, not to release information that would reveal our negotiating position. As a result of this responsibility it would not be appropriate to provide Plymouth with the information and internal analysis requested.

It would not overall be of benefit to Plymouth if the success of the Government's negotiation and planning process were put at risk. I believe releasing this information has the potential to negatively impact Brexit negotiations and the government's planning for Brexit.

While we expect to reach a deal, the Government is also releasing information to enable local authorities, citizens and businesses to prepare effectively for a situation where we do not reach a deal. This information is being released in a structured way through the technical notices, of which we have published more than 100 so far. The notices cover a range of issues your letter asked about – for example, the higher education sector, connectivity and UK participation in EU programmes. The documents are openly available on GOV.UK

The EU Exit Local Government Delivery Board provides a forum for engagement of central and local government on EU exit planning. We will continue to use the Board

and our wider engagement to support and inform local government in the coming months.

The Government is committed to securing a deal that works for the entire United Kingdom - for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all parts of England. The Government is undertaking a comprehensive and wide-ranging programme of on-going analysis in support of our EU exit negotiations and preparations. This analysis helps define our future partnership with the EU, and informs our understanding of how EU exit will affect the UK's domestic policies and frameworks.

It should, of course, be noted that the UK is currently a net contributor to the European Union. All funding from the EU is derived from UK taxpayers' money. The Government's 2017 manifesto has committed to a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, taken from the money coming back to the UK as we leave the EU, to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations.

Ministers and officials have undertaken extensive engagement on EU Exit. This has included civil society groups such as consumer bodies, trade unions and charities, academia, Local Government and its representatives. There has also been extensive engagement with businesses and industry bodies from all sectors of the economy and all regions of the UK.

The country voted to leave the European Union, and it is the duty of the Government to make sure we do just that.

I am placing this letter on GOV.UK to help inform councils with similar proposals.

Yours sincerely,  


**RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP**