



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Chair of the Liaison Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0P

Luke Hall MP
*Minister for Regional Growth and Local
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Dear Lord Gardiner,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 March on behalf of the House of Lords Liaison Committee regarding the follow up work on the recommendations contained in the report 'The Future of Seaside Towns' in 2019. I am grateful for the committee's interest in coastal communities, given their significance to our culture and our economy.

This Government is committed to coastal communities and levelling-up across the Union. We are working with local leaders to ensure every region, city and town will recover from Covid-19 and ultimately level-up. We have continued to make significant progress in supporting coastal communities in a number of areas, demonstrated by the Coastal Communities Fund now having supported 359 projects, totalling over £229 million since 2012.

Our coastal economies and communities add unique value to the country and offer significant growth potential. Our commitment to unlocking this growth was demonstrated at Budget 2021, where the Chancellor announced eight Freeports from eight regions of England, seven of them in coastal areas. Freeports will be national hubs for international trade, innovation and commerce, regenerating communities across the United Kingdom; attracting new businesses, spreading jobs, investment and opportunity to towns and cities across the country and especially in coastal areas.

In March we announced the £56 million Welcome Back Fund to further support local councils and their communities as we return to our high streets and town centres. This funding has been allocated to all local authorities across England, giving every city, town and high street support to prepare for a great summer. Within this, an additional £6 million has been made available to coastal areas; offering additional assistance of up to £100,000 to help address the unique challenges facing these areas as restrictions ease.

As the visitor economy reopens, coastal communities will also likely see a significant increase in footfall. Measures delivered through this funding will offer people safer options to reunite with friends and relatives in an outdoor setting, reducing the risk of transmission whilst still benefitting the local economy. It is therefore appropriate that we provide additional support to these areas to enable them to develop a strategy for how they will manage these challenges and maximise the opportunities that the reopening of their local economies will bring.

Further to this, our coastal areas have already benefited from over £250 million through successful bids into Town Deals and from the Future High Streets Fund, details of which are included in the attached response.

Please find in the annex responses to each of your questions in your letter, as well as updates on each of the original recommendations from the report. I am also publishing this response on gov.uk, which you can find here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-seaside-towns-updated-government-response-to-the-select-committee-report>

Thank you for your continued interest in the work of the Government on supporting coastal communities.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Hall', written in a cursive style.

LUKE HALL MP