



**Ministry of Housing,  
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Roger Marsh OBE  
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(sent by email)

**The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP**  
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and  
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14 November 2018

Thank you for meeting me on 6 November with a number of your colleagues from the East Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber regions to discuss your LEP geography proposal, and for all your hard work on submitting your implementation plans on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

As I said in the meeting, the Government has a clear view that there should be no overlaps between LEP areas. This was the policy set out in *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships* in July, and removing overlaps from LEP geography remains a key priority. I believe it is the right thing to do as we look to LEPs to lead on local industrial strategies, and to take decisions on how to invest the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). As I said in our meeting, this view is strongly shared by my colleagues across Government.

In saying this, of course, we do not take the view that LEPs are separate economic areas insulated from their neighbours. Collaboration between LEPs is important now, not only in cases where there are overlap areas; and it will be every bit as important in the future. In agreeing on the best ways to eliminate overlap areas, we would encourage you to look to neighbouring LEPs to agree how best to enshrine that collaboration in the future. In assessing LEPs in future annual performance reviews, we will be taking account of how effectively and openly you work with neighbouring LEPs.

I would also like to clarify that co-terminosity with Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) areas is important, recognising that non-constituent membership of the MCA by Councils and LEPs creates the basis for wider spatial collaboration.

Failure to resolve the overlaps will lead to increasing levels of relative disadvantage for LEPs. In the short run, we have said we are prepared to make additional capacity funding available in 2018-19 to each LEP to fund a timely and effective implementation of the LEP review, and the development of an evidence base for Local Industrial Strategies. We will move to release this funding only where LEPs have both proposed and are now implementing changes to their geographies that meet the conditions set out and where we are content with your implementation plans.

More seriously, if in time there were cases where overlaps have not been resolved, then your areas may not benefit from UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

I am therefore keen that the remaining overlap areas are now resolved. I would therefore ask you, building on the positive contributions made at the meeting on 6 November, to work further on the best approach your overlaps, and return to me with proposals by 16 November. My officials are on hand to offer advice or to take part in any discussions.

*Yours sincerely,  
James Brokenshire*

**RT HON JAMES BROKENSHIRE MP**