



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Councillor Michele Mead  
By email

20 December 2021

Dear Councillor Mead,

Thank you for your letter of 25 November to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. I am replying as the minister responsible for public spending.

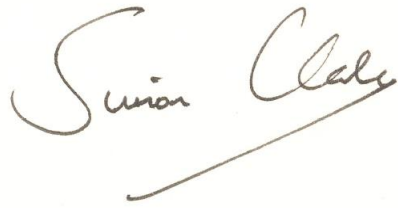
You have raised concerns regarding the number of funding pots and short-term grants. There are instances where ringfences are applied to provide greater direction over the spending of public funds to ensure important policy objectives are achieved. The Government continues to keep the number of ringfences under review and I have shared your concerns with my officials ahead of the next review. The most recent Spending Review has set out funding for the next three years, providing greater certainty about long-term funding and helping to address concerns about the ability to plan over the longer term.

At this year's Spending Review, the Government announced its continued investment in public services and our economy. Local authority core spending power is estimated to increase by an average of 2.9 per cent per year in real terms over the Spending Review period, which follows year-on-year real-terms increases since Spending Review 2019. The Spending Review provides councils with £1.6 billion of new grant funding in each of the next three years to meet pressures including social care and other local services. Overall, this results in £4.8 billion of additional grant in total over the Spending Review period. This represents the largest annual increases in core funding for local authorities in over a decade.

Information relating to the measures announced in the Autumn Budget and Spending Review can be found online at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-budget-and-spending-review-2021-documents](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-budget-and-spending-review-2021-documents).

Thank you for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends from the end of the name.

RT HON SIMON CLARKE MP