



**Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills**

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Our ref: PS
Your ref:

20 November 2012

Dear LEP Chairs

EU COMMON STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (CSF) FUNDS 2014-2020

In the period 2014-2020, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and the European Maritime and Fisheries Funds (EMFF) will be aligned under a Common Strategic Framework (CSF). One of the key objectives of this alignment is to support local growth and competitiveness better. The four funds are currently administered separately in England, and the Government has been looking at the potential for a simpler, more aligned way of doing this.

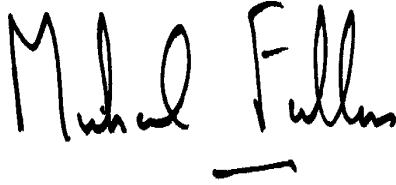
The first of a series of events to discuss the Government's emerging thinking on a new delivery model for the Common Strategic Framework for 2014-2020 will be taking place in Birmingham next Wednesday 21 November. Given the high-level of interest we have had in these events, we are expecting some of the detail of our proposals to spread before they have all been completed in mid-December. We therefore wanted to let you know now that the model we are proposing and would like to consult you on over the coming weeks would involve Local Enterprise Partnerships being invited to take a prominent role in the delivery of funds.

This possible role for Local Enterprise Partnerships relates to the delivery of European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and a small part of European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Local Enterprise Partnerships would be invited to take a major strategic and direct role in how Common Strategic Framework funds would be invested in England in 2014-2020. We believe that the development of proposals for investment of EU funds by Local Enterprise Partnerships would be consistent with their role in developing local economic strategies.

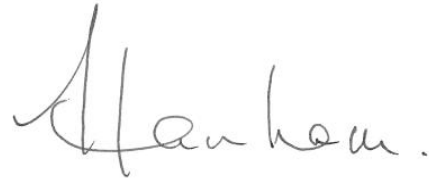
We realise that this letter will only reach you a day in advance of the first road show. However, we hope you, or a representative of your Local Enterprise Partnership, will take this opportunity to discuss these ideas with officials in the coming weeks.

We have copied this message to the Chairs of each of the road shows.

Yours Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Fallon in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name 'Michael' and the last name 'Fallon' clearly legible. There is a small horizontal line under the 'l' in 'Fallon'.

MICHAEL FALLON
The Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP
Minister of State for Business
and Enterprise

Handwritten signature of Baroness Hanham in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Hanham' clearly legible.

BARONESS HANHAM
Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State for Communities
and Local Government