



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Hon. George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

14th June 2013

Spending Round 2013

Dear Chancellor,

As MPs for constituencies in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP area we strongly support the report of the Greater Birmingham Project - *The Path to Local Growth*. The project brought together business and political leadership with united cross-party backing. It presented a shared agenda of utmost importance for the future prosperity of both Greater Birmingham and the UK.

As you make your decisions in the Spending Round this month we urge you to respond positively to the two main messages in the report.

Firstly the proposed Single Local Growth Fund must be both wide in scope and substantial in scale if local areas are to achieve the full potential for driving growth. The value of the devolved "single pot" lies not just in giving local areas the power to accelerate investment but in their ability to join up programmes from across government and to leverage significant additional funding. A fund limited to a few billions drawn from a small number of departments, with strings attached will not achieve this.

Secondly we urge you to recognise both the immense ambition and the practical experience that the GBS LEP has shown since its inception and during the project. Just this week we saw the launch of the bold plan to make Birmingham Airport a national hub, linked to major investment in the M42 Gateway and generating 250,000 new jobs.

Together, the political and business leaders of Greater Birmingham have made a clear offer to government to be in the vanguard of the local growth revolution that Lord Heseltine's proposals could unleash. We are ready to move forward ahead of the pack and help to make the process a reality.

We would all urge you to respond positively to that offer on 26 June so that Greater Birmingham can grasp the opportunities ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Spelman MP
Meriden

Lorely Burt MP
Solihull

Jack Dromey MP
Birmingham, Erdington

Aidan Burley MP
Cannock Chase

Andrew Griffiths MP
Burton & Uttoxeter

Andrew Mitchell MP
Sutton Coldfield

Christopher Pincher MP
Tamworth

Gisela Stuart MP
Birmingham, Edgbaston

John Hemming MP
Birmingham, Yardley

Karen Lumley MP
Redditch

Khalid Mahmood MP
Birmingham, Perry Barr

Liam Byrne MP
Birmingham, Hodge Hill

Mark Garnier MP
Wyre Forest

Michael Fabricant MP
Lichfield

Richard Burden MP
Birmingham, Northfield

Rodger Godsiff MP
Birmingham, Hall Green

Shabana Mahmood MP
Birmingham, Ladywood

Stephen McCabe MP
Birmingham, Selly Oak