

28 October 2022

## **PC7-22 | DLUHC COMMITTEE FUNDING REVIEW**

### **Summary**

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Committee has recently launched a short review into funding. NALC has been invited to submit written evidence. The remit of the review is to examine the funds available for levelling-up and how effectively resources are directed to those areas most in need.

The main consultation document can be downloaded [here](#). The consultation closes on 18 November 2022 at the committee end so this is a snapshot review.

### **Context**

The consultation seeks insight on:

- the allocation of levelling-up resources and the aim, size and focus of the many different funds available.
- how far the government's approach to funding for levelling up, and proposed initiatives such as Investment Zones, contributes to its objective of levelling up the country.

NALC will be responding to this consultation as many local councils have told NALC over the last couple of years that they have been unable to apply for central government funding on the same basis as principal authorities.

### **NALC's current policy positions**

NALC's current funding position is very simple – that all local councils should be able to apply on the same basis as principal authorities for central government funding. We know that is currently not the case – something the NALC Funding Task and Finish Group, under the auspices of the NALC Policy Committee, is collating a business case on.

## Consultation Questions

The main DLUHC committee questions that NALC will be responding to in this consultation are as below and NALC seeks the views of county associations and member councils in response to these questions to help inform its own submission:

- **How can the government ensure that all areas that need funding for Levelling up receive adequate support with the bidding process and subsequently receive adequate funding?**
- **What are the challenges of competitive bidding and will this impact areas with limited resources and capabilities for bidding?**
- **How does levelling up funding integrate with other funding streams such as the Towns Fund, the High St Fund, the Sustainable Transport Fund etc?**
- **How can the government achieve its aim of streamlining funding for Levelling Up?**
- **How can funding focus on both wider regions, as well as individual towns?**
- **How can government ensure that spending across all departmental budgets can be adjusted accordingly to ensure all of government is focused on achieving levelling up and that resources are directed to the areas most in need?**
- **How are Levelling Up projects being measured in terms of value for money and for their contribution to Levelling Up?**
- **Is the UKSPF a sufficient replacement of the European Structural Investment Funds?**
- **What is your assessment of the Levelling Up Fund, and what improvements could be made, with reference to:**
  - The bidding process
  - Feedback on unsuccessful and successful applications
  - Transparency
  - The impact of inflation
- **How should the success of Levelling Up funding be measured against the government's desired outcomes for Levelling Up?**
- **How will the proposed Investment Zones contribute towards the key objectives of Levelling Up? And is this different approach the right approach?**
- **Will the government's approach to funding for levelling up achieve its objective of levelling up the country?**

## **Your evidence**

Please email your responses to this consultation to [chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk) by 17.00 on Thursday 10 November 2022. County associations are asked to forward this briefing onto all member councils in their area.

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