



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

To: Local Authority Leaders in England  
CC: Chief Executives

**Neil O'Brien MP**

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for  
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Dear Council Leaders,

## **REVIEW OF LOCAL GROWTH FUNDING EXPOSURE TO RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN INTERESTS**

You received a letter from the Secretary of State on 11 March 2022 related to the rapidly evolving situation in Ukraine. I am writing today to encourage you to scrutinise your local growth funding in respect of exposure to Russian and Belarusian interests.

Local authorities are in receipt of - or are the accountable body for - several local growth programmes that receive funding from the department. You should consider your exposure in respect of (a) sources of matched funding and (b) where benefits will flow. At a minimum this should include the Towns Fund (including Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund) and the Levelling Up Fund, but I am sure you will want to go wider.

I would encourage your officers to continue to engage with my department on the situation in Ukraine. You can email any concerns, raise questions, or seek advice via [localgrowthfunding@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:localgrowthfunding@levellingup.gov.uk)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your collaborative work on this matter.

**NEIL O'BRIEN MP**