



Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department for Communities and Local Government

Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 0303 444 3430
Fax: 0303 444 3986
E-Mail: bob.neill@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

Our Ref: ER/BN/044766/11

Dee Doocey AM
Chair
Economy, Culture and Sport Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London
SE1 2AA

RECEIVED
26 JAN 2012

23 JAN 2012

Thank you for your letter of 9 December to the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP on behalf of the London Assembly Economy, Culture and Sport Committee drawing attention to the need for revenue funding to be a part of the central Government response to the disturbances of August 2011. I have been asked to reply.

The Government agrees with the sentiments you express in your letter. The importance of revenue funded programmes in the overall recovery of the areas affected by the disturbances should not be underestimated. You are quite right to say that tackling the root causes of August's disturbances cannot adequately be tackled through capital projects alone, and that revenue-funded projects to improve security, tackle worklessness and rebuild a sense of local pride can all have roles to play.

It was for this reason that half of the London Enterprise Fund, the £20m support for Croydon and Tottenham you refer to in your letter, is intended for revenue programmes. While the precise nature of the schemes that will ultimately receive funding properly remain for the relevant local authorities to decide, and the exact funding mix to each area will ultimately be decided by the GLA, it is our intention that roughly half of the funding allocated to Croydon and Tottenham should be for revenue programmes.

Of course Croydon and Tottenham were not the only areas affected by the summer disturbances, nor are they the only areas which require the kind of assistance you refer to. This is why in the aftermath of the riots the Government also established the High Street Support Scheme, which is open to bids from local authorities who wish to gain access to revenue funding to encourage customers to return to affected areas. Thirty-five local authorities indicated that they were interested in claiming from this fund, and final claims are due to be submitted by 31 January 2012.

I hope this answers the concerns you express in your letter, and I thank your committee for their dedication to the areas affected by the summer's disturbances.

BOB NEILL MP