



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Councillor Ian Gillies  
Leader, York City Council

**The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and  
Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local  
Government**

4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450

Email: [sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Councillor Gillies

## **LOCAL PLAN INTERVENTION**

Congratulations on becoming Leader of York City Council. I am writing today as a result of the Council's persistent failure over many years and under different administrations, to get a Local Plan in place, following on from the concerns I set out on 16 November 2017 about the lack of progress that had been made in plan-making. The housing White Paper set out that intervention in Local Plans will be prioritised where:

- the least progress in plan-making has been made
- policies in plans had not been kept up to date
- there was higher housing pressure; and
- intervention would have the greatest impact in accelerating Local Plan production

We also made clear that decisions on intervention will be informed by the wider planning context in each area (specifically, the extent to which authorities are working cooperatively to put strategic plans in place, and the potential impact that not having a plan has on neighbourhood planning activity). I gave the City Council the opportunity to put forward any exceptional circumstances by 31 January 2018, which, in the Council's view, justifies the failure to produce a Local Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 regime.

I note that the City Council has made some progress since my letter of 16 November 2017. Whilst this is welcome, your Council still remains without an up to date Local Plan which undermines public confidence in the plan-led planning system.

Therefore I will hold you to account for your Council's actions. Your Council needs to continue to meet your published timetable. I will continue to monitor your progress closely and any further significant delays in meeting your timetable will cause me to have considerable doubt as to whether your Council is doing everything that is

necessary in connection with the preparation of its Local Plan. I will not hesitate to consider how to use the full range of powers Parliament has given me to ensure that a Plan is in place.

My officials will continue to engage with your officers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**