



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

All MPs in England

**Rt Hon James Brokenshire**

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22 July 2019

Dear colleague,

I am writing to update you on a new communities framework, titled '***By deeds and their results: how we will strengthen our communities and nation***'.

This framework renews the government's vision for stronger communities, and I am proud to champion the communities of people who play active roles in helping to shape, make and strengthen the places they call home.

When communities are strong, society is strong. Communities can improve health and wellbeing, enable economic prosperity, help improve their local environment, and provide support in times of crisis.

But it is eight years on from the Localism Act, and the challenges communities face has evolved. Government now better understands the role it and communities can play. It is also right to recognise that in the years since the nation voted to leave the European Union, long term divisions between communities have been exposed which Government and its partners must act on.

The framework commits to several actions including:

- **Holding a national conversation with communities across England** about their view of who we are as a nation, their vision for the future of their community and our country, and what local and national government can and should be doing to support their community to thrive. We want government and all public bodies to renew their understanding of their role in building stronger communities – this should be informed by direct conversations with people, in partnership with our existing local democratic institutions. The conversation will commence following the UK's formal departure from the European Union.
- **Establishing a series of Civic Deal pilots** to test how government put into practice the principles in *By deeds and their results*. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will work jointly with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on these pilots. We will work with each pilot

to consider how government activities can be better aligned and co-ordinated to support communities in identifying and delivering their own priorities.

- **Publishing a Communities White Paper to renew government's focus on building stronger communities across England.** how community rights are strengthened, promoted and made easier to take up; how funding for communities can be more simplified, integrated and less risk averse; and how communities can best shape local services and decision-making more broadly. The final scope of the White Paper will be developed in partnership with communities, including through the national conversation and Civic Deal pilots.

***By deeds and their results*** is underpinned by four policy pillars, that will inform all work to strengthen communities across our department:

1. Trust, connectedness and local pride;
2. Active citizenship and local control;
3. Shared community spaces;
4. Shared prosperity, with no community left behind.

This publication represents the next step in an ongoing conversation with communities that will shape the department's future activity. By working in partnership with all stakeholders – including other government departments, councils, businesses, faith groups and civil society organisations – we can create an environment that supports and enables strong communities to flourish.



**RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP**