



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Cllr Graham Ballinger

Leader of Wyre Forest District Council
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Mark Garnier MP

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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
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**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
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Dear Cllr Graham Ballinger and Mark Garnier MP,

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the Future High Streets Fund Competition.

Now more than ever, it is vital that we continue to support our town centres and high streets, so we can once again see them bustling and thriving. We recognise the profound impact COVID-19 is having on the businesses and communities that make them successful and that is why we have already provided a substantial £2bn support package. This includes a business rates holiday, cash grants, business loans, the job retention scheme as well as deferral of income tax payments. We have also provided an additional £1.1bn to local authorities via the Additional Restrictions Grant to provide wider business support, and more than £11.6bn has been dispersed in grants to just under 1 million businesses in England. On top of this, our £50m Reopening High Streets Safely Fund has ensured businesses have been able to trade safely. But there is now, and will be evermore so once COVID-19 is in full retreat, an immense challenge ahead. It will require imagination, coordination and cooperation between the public and private sectors, all the planning flexibilities we can provide and of course capital.

I am therefore delighted to inform you that you have been successful in your Future High Streets Fund application and will be awarded £20,510,598. I hope this funding will enable you to transform your high street in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability for the people of Kidderminster.

You submitted a strong business case to the department, which scored highly against our assessment criteria, and I was pleased to read about the projects you plan to deliver with the fund, including the new multi-functional public space and public realm improvements. It is clear to see the hard work that went into your application and I thank you for your patience over the last few months, especially in light of COVID.

We are keen to get delivery and spend underway quickly as I am sure are you. We would therefore welcome an early conversation over what delivery you think you may be able to bring forwards, in preparation of making the first year's payment in the New Year. Over the coming weeks, we will provide further detail at setting out the department's expectations around monitoring and evaluation, and the support that will go with that. It will also set out our

requirements around communications and branding, and how the department will keep in touch to oversee progress on delivery.

Congratulations again on your successful application, and I look forward to my department and Wyre Forest District Council working closely together over the next coming months, as we continue to help our local economies to recover, adapt and evolve from COVID-19.

I have copied this letter to Ian Miller, Chief Executive of Wyre Forest District Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP