



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-730
Ein cyf/Our ref: MD/00079/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

17 February 2017

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February regarding petition P-05-730 on local government finance and funding.

Since you first wrote on this matter and my reply of 22 November, I have published the final settlement for local government in Wales for 2017-18. This reflects an increase of £6 million compared with the provisional settlement. It also preserves the funding floor, welcomed by UNISON Cymru/Wales in its submission to the Petitions Committee, to ensure that no authority sees a reduction of more than 0.5% compared with 2016-17.

The Welsh Government published a White Paper, *Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed*, on 31 January. This sets out our proposals for the reform of local government in Wales.

The proposals are out for consultation until 11 April and I would welcome a response from UNISON Cymru/Wales and other interested parties.

The consultation can be accessed at the following link:

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/reforming-local-government-resilient-and-renewed>.

In developing these proposals, I engaged extensively with local government and key stakeholders over the summer and autumn months. In taking the proposals forward, I intend to engage widely with experts in a range of fields and to work with local government and stakeholders through our established consultative arrangements.

Best wishes,

Mark,

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government