



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Arthur Young  
Deputy Director

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

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15 January 2026

Dear Chief Executive,

**Implementation of reforms to the plan-making system – support for early starters**

I am writing as your local authority submitted a plan for examination on, or before, 12 March 2025 and the housing requirement in the plan as submitted for examination was meeting less than 80% of local housing need, calculated using the standard method in national planning practice guidance 2024 [link](#). You will, therefore, be required to start a local plan early in the new plan-making system by publishing your notice to commence plan preparation by 30 June 2026 and publishing your Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026.

I would like to offer your local authority support to help meet this timeframe. The Government has recently announced a minimum of £14 million for plan-making and part of that is specifically for authorities who begin a plan early in the new system. Further detail of the fund and the expression of interest form can be found [here](#). Your authority could access in the region of £120,000, although the funding awarded could be more or less than this amount.

If you wish to apply for this funding please **submit an expression of interest by the deadline 17:00pm on 28 January 2026**. If you have any questions regarding the funding, please email: [localplanfunding@communities.gov.uk](mailto:localplanfunding@communities.gov.uk)

Separately, we would also like to offer your officers a meeting to discuss any questions you have on commencing work on your new local plan and how we can most effectively support you to do so. If you would like to meet please select one of these [appointments](#).

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Young  
**Deputy Director – Development Plans**