



SIGOMA

The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (Outside London)

Chair: Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton
CBE (Barnsley MBC)

Vice Chair: Councillor Lord Peter Smith
(Wigan MBC)

Date: 22 August 2016

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Local
Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P4DF

Contact: cllrstephenhoughton@barnsley.gov.uk

Congratulations

Dear Mr Javid,

May I offer my congratulations on your recent appointment to Secretary of State for Local Government.

As Leader of Barnsley MBC and Chairman of SIGOMA, one of the largest interest groups within the LGA, I would like to offer our help and support in delivering a sustainable and valued local government service.

You will no doubt already be aware of the heavy burden of cuts that has been sustained by local government since 2010. The most recent settlement offered some greater certainty including as it did a four year offer, which our members welcomed, yet the poorest metropolitan areas have consistently suffered the greatest cuts to funding and are facing some of the hardest choices on behalf of our residents.

The issue of sustainability in the face of continued cuts is of crucial interest to our members and we hope the move to 100% rates retention will accommodate the simple truth that local authorities do not all have an equal capacity to grow business rates or Council Tax.

Secretary: Diana Terris, Chief Executive (Barnsley)
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We would be very happy to explain our case in more details should the occasion arise and to work in whatever way we can with your department.

I wish you a successful term in office.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Houghton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton
SIGOMA Chair