



**Councillor Hilton Spratt**  
Leader of Conservative Opposition  
**Councillor Thomas Dyer**  
Deputy Leader of the Conservative Opposition  
  
City Hall, Beaumont Fee,  
Lincoln.  
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The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Secretary of State for Housing,  
Communities and Local Government,  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

### **Critical Funding Support for the City of Lincoln Council**

We are emailing you in our capacity as the opposition group on the City of Lincoln Council.

Based upon the most recent funding allocation from government, the City of Lincoln Council has been awarded just over £1million. This funding is welcome, and we know will go some way in supporting the council to maintain its critical services.

As is the case with many organisations, Covid-19 has certainly taken its toll on the financial resilience of the council. We are aware that the authority's income streams are drying up, they have deferred debt recovery and have incurred costs to ensure that additional support services can be provided at this time.

Following conversations with leading council officers and analysing the figures, we as the Conservative group have concluded that the City of Lincoln Council requires immediate further assistance from government.

We do believe that questions must be asked of the authority's political leadership regarding the volatility and fragility of the council's finances. However, our immediate priority is the survival of the City of Lincoln Council.

Therefore, the Conservative group endorses the requests made to you from the Leader of the Council which is set out below.

- Further financial support.
- Financial support for Housing Revenue Accounts, they are facing real pressures in the form of rising rent arrears and loss of rental income through current void properties. To date no specific financial support has been provided that can be attributed to the HRA's.
- A temporary lifting of the restriction, through the Prudential Code, to allow borrowing to be undertaken for revenue purposes and for this to be provided through the PWLB at discounted rates. Access to such funds would, in the absence of further Government funding, allow us to borrow and spread the impacts of our financial losses over a number of years.

- A new capitalisation directive, similar to the treatment of the lost income on investments made in Icelandic Banks, to allow income losses to be spread over a number of years and financed through the delivery of service reductions allowing crucial time for these to be implemented.
- A fast-tracking of other Government grant schemes and a loosening of grant conditions and delivery timescales to allow resources to be pumped back into our City's economy to kick start its recovery, e.g. Towns Fund, Local Authority Accelerated Construction etc.
- An implementation of the consultation proposal to see the timeframe

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Governments response to Covid-19 has seen remarkable and unprecedented support for businesses and jobs, we are certainly proud to represent the party here in Lincoln.

I hope that you can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Hilton Spratt, Leader of the Conservative Opposition  
Councillor Thomas Dyer, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Opposition

CC:

Karl M<sup>c</sup>Cartney, Member of Parliament for Lincoln  
Councillor James Jamieson, Leader of the LGA Conservative Group and LGA Chairman  
Councillor Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council  
Councillor Ric Metcalfe, Leader of the City of Lincoln Council  
Angela Andrews, Chief Executive of the City of Lincoln Council