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Dear Sir Michael,

### **Core Cities second submission to the Lyons Inquiry**

Please find attached the Core Cities collective response to the extension of your Inquiry. I also attach A Century for Cities, the Prospectus of the Core Cities that sets out our priorities and discusses what changes might result in improved economic performance on the one hand and greater social inclusion on the other. In addition, I re-attach a paper commissioned by the Core Cities from Tony Travers, LSE: *England's Core Cities; why financial freedom would drive improvement*, part of our original submission to the Inquiry.

There are several areas where the Core Cities would welcome the opportunity for further discussion as your Inquiry moves toward a conclusion and, as well as the input of Chief Executives and Leaders, the Core Cities have a number of expert officer working groups from which we are able to draw specific knowledge and experience. I realise that the timescale for conclusion is now very tight indeed, but if an opportunity for discussion does exist we would obviously want to take advantage of this.

Core Cities are also currently restructuring their working groups to align them more closely with their shared priorities, but also so that we can collectively engage as effectively as possible with government, other bodies and agencies on key policy agendas. Our desire is to work more closely with government and with others in the future on the implementation of policy as it emerges from the Comprehensive Spending Review. We believe that there is merit in a shared approach that, with expert input from cities that will have a central role in much of the delivery, will save time and resources in achieving the most effective routes for national delivery at the local level.

In addition to formal consultation, this might include workshops and seminars, but also virtual or time-limited working groups, jointly with Whitehall and Core Cities, tasked to resolve specific issues or deliver options for resolution. The Core Cities recognise that government must make often difficult choices in relation to local government, but our view is that a different, shared approach to policy implementation will not only save time and money, but result in a more efficient, fit or purpose set of solutions for the long term.

We look forward to the outcome of your Inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss any of the issues we raise or to ask for further detail.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Murray  
**Director, Core Cities**