

The Rt Hon. Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA



22 July 2026

Dear Andy

As the Chair of Core Cities UK, I'd like to offer you my congratulations on becoming Prime Minister at what is a pivotal time for our nation.

We know from your successful track record as Mayor of Greater Manchester that you share many of Core Cities UK's aims and values. Not only in Manchester but across all twelve of our cities, we have seen that when we are empowered as local leaders, we are able to rebuild and revitalise our cities, drive growth and productivity and improve lives. Through your leadership and commitment to rewiring the state, we are ready to go much further.

Core Cities UK has a thirty year track record of getting things done. We come to you with an offer to work together with your Government to tackle our biggest challenges. We believe getting it right in our cities will have direct benefits to not only our surrounding areas, but to the rest of the country.

We stand ready to work with others in local government, our mayors and national governments, and with your team to design and deliver the ambitious devolution agenda that you have set out. This should not only cover an extension to powers over economic development, in particular on empowering us to tackle the housing crisis and deliver the council and social homes we need but should include the full devolution of employment and skills, public service reform and a major programme of fiscal devolution.

We have been pleased to hear you acknowledge the critical role played by local authorities within our devolution framework. As you know from your time in Greater Manchester, devolution works when it is a partnership between a Mayor and the constituent authorities, and we hope the experience that you and your team bring to this will improve the design and delivery within central government. This includes a proper transfer of staffing resource and accountability to align with the levers that are devolved.

Alongside looking at strengthening the existing model in England, we also believe that more needs to be done by the UK Government, in consort with respective national

governments, to ensure the leaders of our member cities in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Glasgow can be similarly empowered to drive good growth and increase wellbeing.

As well as significant opportunities domestically, we want to work with your Government on your international agenda. Core Cities UK believes passionately in multilateral, city-to-city diplomacy and the UK's soft power role across the globe. During the next two years the UK will host the G20 and the G7 summits and we are already working towards playing our role in the specifically urban discussions that take place around these events.

We are ready to work with our Mayors and your Government to make sure that the UK urban voice is strongly represented and that we can draw a clear line for our citizens between how leadership on global issues is vital for their security and can improve their lives.

I look forward to welcoming you to the great Core City of Liverpool for your first conference as leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister in September.

Meanwhile, we will reach out to your new ministerial team inviting them to work with Core Cities Leaders on our shared ambition. We look forward to the support of No10 in securing these opportunities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Liam Robinson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Cllr Liam Robinson,
Chair of Core Cities UK, Leader of Liverpool City Council.