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| The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MPChancellor of the ExchequerHM Treasury, Chief Secretary's Office, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQSent by email to Action.Chancellors@hmtreasury.gov.uk | Core Cities UKC/O Manchester City CouncilLevel 3Manchester Town Hall ExtensionLloyd StreetManchesterM60 2LA0161 234 5693s.rainsbury@corecities.com  |

22 May 2020

Dear Chancellor

**Core Cities can help the UK get backs on its feet, but Government must support them now**

The UK’s biggest cities and city regions are critical to a safe return from lockdown and future recovery.

This cannot happen unless the financial crisis facing public services is dealt with decisively and we quickly plug a gap that, in the English Core Cities alone is £1.6billion. Government support so far has not covered even half this amount.

Core Cities are stepping up to the challenge of C19, both on the front line of critical services and in delivering economic leadership.

Government must in turn honour its commitment to ‘do whatever it takes and recognise that funding so far is wholly inadequate. We must replace in full what we have spent protecting our communities and our citizens from C19, and plug the gap in reduced income, to avoid service closures.

There are extreme challenges everywhere, but Government’s own figures show higher death rates for major urban and deprived areas, BAME communities, and economic impacts are greatest in our business and economic hubs.

An urgent additional funding package must be delivered, which recognises the specific challenges of urban areas, missed in a per head of population funding allocation.

Public transport is also a major concern, and unless support is made available to transport authorities in the way it has been for Transport for London, the future of the services our citizens and our economies rely upon are at serious risk.

Core Cities can also help Government to find solutions to the challenges it is struggling with in the here and now, as well as the long term.

Our local leadership can support national action, for example:

* Drawing on our public health expertise;
* As trusted conveners with detailed local knowledge to support a safe return from lockdown; and
* Strategic economic leaders with skills and experience of economic recovery over decades.

We will set out what we intend to do to help the nation move forward from this crisis, and what joint work with government will be needed to deliver a different, inclusive, more sustainable future.

But none of this will be possible without urgent action to protect frontline public services, or without a much closer dialogue between our political Cabinet and Government ministers.

Core Cities already work as a united team, and can provide a different engine to drive UK recovery, nationally and locally. We urge you and your ministerial teams to speak with us as soon as possible to discuss ways we can work together on the above, to lead the UK toward a stronger future.

Yours sincerely,

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| **Councillor Ian Ward**Leader, Birmingham City Council |  | **Mayor Marvin Rees**Mayor, Bristol City Council |
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| **Councillor Huw Thomas**Leader of Cardiff City Council |  |
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| **Councillor Judith Blake CBE**Leader, Leeds City Council |  | **Mayor Joe Anderson OBE**Mayor, Liverpool City Council |
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| **Councillor Sir Richard Leese CBE**Leader, Manchester City Council |  | **Councillor Nick Forbes CBE**Leader, Newcastle City Council |
| Dave Mellen Signature |  | Julie Dore Sig |
| **Councillor David Mellen**  Leader, Nottingham City Council |  | **Councillor Julie Dore**Leader, Sheffield City Council |
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Copy to: Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State, MHCLG