

Our Ref: GB/06/012/060910/ND  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Dear Mike,

I am writing to confirm my strong support for your proposed Pennine Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership. From personal experience, I am aware of the effective cross-boundary and cross-party working which has been put in place over the last few years to promote economic prosperity and growth in the sub-region.

I am clear that Pennine Lancashire fits comfortably, spatially, with what the Government is seeking to achieve – it is a natural economic area with a significant population of 520,000 people, with robust governing structures in place and an excellent track record of collaborative working with the private sector.

I am aware that the proposal has the strong backing of the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and other Pennine Lancashire business leaders and this is something which I see as essential if the proposal is to be “signed off” by Government.

I would also like to confirm that I am in the process of co-ordinating a meeting of East Lancashire MP’s with relevant Ministers.

Yours sincerely

**Gordon Birtwistle**

Member of Parliament for Burnley

c.c. Cllr. Charlie Briggs, Leader, Burnley Borough Council  
Cllr. Mike Ranson, Leader, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Cllr. Mike Blomeley, Leader, Pendle Borough Council  
Cllr. Tony Swain, Leader, Rossendale Borough Council  
Cllr. Peter Britcliffe, Leader, Hyndburn Borough Council  
Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive, Burnley Borough Council  
Steve Cochrane, Head of Strategy for PLACE, Blackburn-with-Darwen Council

*Please reply to Constituency Office*

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