



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

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Dear Helen,

Thank you for your email of 19 April, on behalf of your constituent Sharon Clayton of Oswestry Rural Parish Council, 64 Cherrybrook Drive, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5SH about the role that parish councils play in levelling up. Please accept my apologies for the severe delay in responding to you.

First of all, I would like to reiterate the Government's support for the fantastic work of parish councils, as the first level of local government and a vital means to provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action.

As we committed to Levelling Up white paper (which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>), the Government is starting work with partners in local government and civil society on a bold new approach to community empowerment. This includes launching a review of neighbourhood governance in England, looking at how to make it easier for local people and community groups to come together, set local priorities and shape the future of their neighbourhoods. The review will also look at the role and functions of parish councils in England and how to make them quicker and easier to establish.

Turning to levelling up in Shropshire, the has Government recently confirmed that Shropshire will receive over £12.25m of funding over the years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, from both the core UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and for the adult numeracy programme Multiply to support levelling up opportunity and prosperity and overcoming.

Yours sincerely,

**PAUL SCULLY MP**