



Rt Hon George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

28 November 2011

Dear Sir,

Stimulating growth: the potential of local government

If the early reports and commentaries are accurate, a significant growth package can be expected in this week's Autumn Statement. The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) believe local government should play a greater role in kick starting local economies.

Economic growth happens in places, not in Whitehall, and local government understands places to a degree that national government is not able. Having a clear view of local potential, local skills and local business opportunities ensures that councils can follow the evidence and adapt programmes to meet local need.

This is why SOLACE calls on the Government to place Councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships at the centre of the delivery of the UK growth strategy. By following the principles enshrined in the new Localism Act, together we can ensure capital projects, housing policy and measures to tackle youth unemployment have most effect. By allowing adaptation to reflect local circumstances more can be achieved. Central direction and control will merely crowd out innovation and limit potential.

The second half of this particular economic equation is, of course, deficit reduction. Local government has set the rest of the sector a high bar to match by delivering the largest efficiencies, the greatest value for money, and the most innovative procurement in the sector. We have a record of delivery which we seek to share across government, a desire for open dialogue and a determination to apply this to the very real challenges our varied communities face.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Rossiter, Managing Director, SOLACE

cc: Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP

SOLACE, Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT www.solace.org.uk e: graeme.mcdonald@solace.org.uk t: 020 7233 0081
Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 2771210. VAT Reg. No. 875 4803 90. Registered office: Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT

SOLACE Gold Partners



LIBERATA

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**





Notes for the Editor:

SOLACE

The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) is the professional body representing Chief Executives, Senior Managers, Aspiring Managers and Graduates of UK local authorities and other public sector related organisations. SOLACE contributes to and influences the debate about the future of public services to ensure that policy is informed by evidence and the expertise of our members.

For further information please contact:

Graeme McDonald
Director of Policy and Communications

t: 07581 346569

e: graeme.mcdonald@solace.org.uk

SOLACE, Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT www.solace.org.uk e: graeme.mcdonald@solace.org.uk t: 020 7233 0081

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 2771210. VAT Reg. No. 875 4803 90. Registered office: Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT

SOLACE Gold Partners



LIBERATA

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

