



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nick Hibberd  
Executive Director  
Economy, Environment & Culture  
Brighton & Hove City Council

Our Ref: PK13727

9 June 2021

Dear Nick,

**Re: Hove & Portslade Levelling Up Fund**

I am writing to express my support for the Kingsway to the Sea project and want to give my backing to the plan to obtain finance for it via the Levelling Up Fund.

As you know, the historic Western Esplanade has been in a state of decline over the last decade and yet as an area for sport, wellness and rare green space in the constituency it is a key area for families, the elderly and visitors.

The sports facilities from the broken tennis courts to the overgrown pitch & putt to the abandoned all-weather pitch have never been needed more by local families in our post-Covid lives. And yet this key stretch of the constituency offers little of quality for the hundreds of local families heading there.

Crucially, I'm glad you can see how the corridor down from Hangleton to this stretch of seafront brings in families and elderly residents from the more deprived area of the constituency to the seafront and outdoor facilities, rendering more investment so necessary if we are to combat the rising obesity, isolation and loneliness.

My regular community meetings with groups and forums in Hove demonstrate a very high level of support for investment in this area. The Hove Civic Society, the West Hove Seafront Action Group, the West Hove Forum and the Hangleton & Knoll Project Over 50s Group (to name but a few) are all desperate for the health and wellbeing facilities to be regenerated and for this to also help solve the area's rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour problems.

If ever there was an area in need of 'levelling up' it is the crucial stretch of seafront which is so badly run down and offering little now for a community keen to get outdoors and get fit. I also see how it is an area where regeneration will secure jobs and revenues for our local economy. Thanks to its connection to Hove and Aldrington train stations, a regenerated western seafront will expand the visitor economy into Hove with a focus on family days out, in contrast to the intensity of Brighton for the under 30s and over 55s. To this end I remain keen to also expand our regeneration to the Hove Station Bridge.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kyle'.

Peter Kyle MP

Shadow Minister for Schools