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Midlothian

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer
Prime Minister

7 October 2024

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Prime Minister and Chancellor

As Leader of Midlothian Council, I am writing to you ahead of the forthcoming UK Budget to urgently request increased funding for public services in Scotland, which would consequently mean that the Scottish Government could allocate additional funding for Midlothian Council.

Midlothian Council is Scotland's fastest-growing local authority, and this growth brings with it increasing pressure on our services and infrastructure. With a rapidly growing population, we are struggling to keep pace with the demand for essential services such as education, health, and social care. A reversal of the recent cuts to Scotland's Capital budget is also essential, as it allows us to plan for future growth and ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to support a thriving community.

Unfortunately, we have seen a lack of adequate investment in Midlothian's infrastructure under the previous UK Government, particularly in relation to key projects such as the A701 road realignment and other necessary transport and infrastructure improvements. We now expect this Government to do better by ensuring that Midlothian's infrastructure needs are met through targeted investment. The Levelling Up Fund, for example, provides a crucial opportunity for us to address these needs, and I strongly urge you to ensure that Midlothian's projects receive the attention and funding they deserve.

Investing in infrastructure here is not just a local priority – it supports broader economic growth across Scotland and the UK. Growth in Midlothian leads to increased business activity and employment, which in turn generates more revenue for public services, benefiting the entire region.

I invite you both to visit Midlothian and see firsthand the challenges we face, as well as the incredible potential we have for growth. I look forward to discussing how the UK Government can support us in realising that potential through targeted investment in our public services and infrastructure.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR KELLY PARRY
Leader, Midlothian Council