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THE PRIME MINISTER

24 September 2020

Dear Danny,

Thank you for your report, *Levelling Up Our Communities*, which you wrote in response to my request for proposals on how to sustain the community spirit of the lockdown. As you say, we have seen tremendous levels of voluntary action by private citizens, and of innovation and partnership between the public, private and social sectors. These are critical elements of the social model we want to see for the recovery, and into the future.

I am pleased to announce that on 'public value commissioning', we are today launching a new framework for public procurement by Government. Drawing on the best models of local procurement, this framework will level the playing field for small business and social enterprises so they can win more contracts from Government.

I have asked Diana Barran, Minister for Civil Society, to consult with the people, charities and other local organisations who have volunteered during the pandemic to discuss whether and how they expect to volunteer in future, and what infrastructure or policy support will help them to do so. Your comprehensive and hugely ambitious report contains many exciting ideas, which are actively being considered by DCMS, and I have asked Secretary of State Oliver Dowden, who is responsible for the Government's civil society agenda, to update you on the Government's work in this area in due course.

Once again, my thanks for your report, and thanks also to the many people who contributed ideas and information to it. I look forward to continuing the conversation.

Mr Danny Kruger MBE MP