



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Lee Rowley MP**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local  
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and  
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26 October 2023

Dear Council Leaders and Chief Executives,

## **PUBLICATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY FOUR-DAY WORKING WEEK GUIDANCE**

I am writing to you today as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities publishes guidance to the sector regarding the use of part-time work for full-time pay (otherwise referred to as the four-day working week) in the local government sector in England.

Local government plays a pivotal role in the delivery of core public services. In normal circumstances, the Government of course respects the right of councils to make their own decisions on key issues and, as a former Councillor, I strongly believe in the ability of local authorities to innovate and find new ways to discharge their responsibilities. There are also times, however, when it is proportionate for Government to take a view on what is happening in the sector in order to protect value for money for residents. The issue of the four-day working week is one of those times.

Asking the taxpayer to shoulder the full-time expense for part time hours by deleting 20% of the working week is not compatible with a council's requirement to demonstrate value for money. The publication of this guidance today makes unambiguously clear that the Government does not, and will not, support the use of part-time work for full-time pay by local authorities.

Those councils which are continuing to pursue the four-day working week are, in my view, letting down the sector as a whole. It would be a massive shame for the sector's strong and long-standing track record as a whole on effectiveness, efficiency and value for money to be undermined by the ideological actions of a few. As a consequence, should those individual councils continue to disregard this advice, the Government is clear that it will take the necessary steps in the months ahead until it is heeded.

The full guidance can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/four-day-working-week-arrangements-in-local-authorities>.

Yours sincerely,

**LEE ROWLEY MP**