

11 September 2023

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Angela,

I wanted to take the opportunity to say congratulations on your recent move to Shadow Secretary of State of the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLHC), alongside your role as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. On behalf of the [Recruitment & Employment Confederation \(REC\)](#), I wish you every success in your new areas of work and look forward to continuing to co-operate on employment issues.

We are aware of your extensive advocacy around the necessity for stronger powers locally, and in ensuring that communities have more ownership and control of their local areas. This has also been promising in the context of Labour's '[Take Back Control Bill](#)', which seeks to give all regions more ownership and voice by devolving power away from Westminster. Local businesses, local authorities and local people are the experts in their areas. But currently, there is a mismatch between the jobs available locally and the skills, education, training opportunities and infrastructure available to fill them. That's why in our [Overcoming Shortages: How to create a sustainable labour market](#) report, our core recommendation is around the creation of a future workforce strategy is so important, clearly outlining the skills that the UK economy will need over the coming years. We advocate this entailing government and business collaboratively putting in place policies for skills, immigration, regional investment, transport and labour market activation. which will help avoid future recessions, boost productivity and increase investment.

Putting this into practice, we have strongly advocated for labour market experts, such as recruitment professionals, to be included across Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) models across England, in its crucial delivery phase. This is an essential way of enabling local businesses, education and training providers, and local labour market experts - recruiters - to share the latest labour market intelligence, ensuring that every LSIP has a cohesive strategy for responding to the changing needs and demands of local labour markets. Without this cross-sector collaboration, the government won't achieve its ambitions for a high-wage, high-growth economy. As stated in [Labour's Industrial Strategy](#), we embrace '**public-private sector collaboration**' in delivering public services and are ready to help you in this role.

I enjoyed our meeting recently but as ever I would welcome the opportunity to set out some of our work in levelling up local labour markets in more detail if that would be helpful, to hear your priorities and to explore how the REC can help. Ellie Goddard (ellie.goddard@rec.uk.com) in my office will be happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Carberry
Chief Executive