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06 March 2024

Dear Ariane,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 February 2024 regarding Community Wealth Building.

I welcome the Committee's interest in Community Wealth Building and I am delighted to hear that Committee members visited North Ayrshire to hear first-hand about their experience in taking forward the approach.

I wrote to the Committee in October 2023 to advise members of the publication of an independent analysis report of the consultation on Community Wealth Building legislation. The findings from this important consultation will be invaluable in informing the development of the Community Wealth Building approach in Scotland. The consultation recognised the key role that Local Authorities and wider Community Planning partners play in taking forward the approach to support the development of their local and regional economies.

Building on the feedback received during the consultation exercise, we are undertaking further analysis of respondents' feedback in relation to the proposal for a duty to advance Community Wealth Building and are examining the feasibility of the proposals for other areas of legislative change that were submitted via the consultation.

I am keen to continue engagement with the Committee on this important matter. Scotland is already being recognised internationally for its approach in implementing Community Wealth Building, however I am keen to accelerate progress to support the achievement of a wellbeing economy.

Yours sincerely

**TOM ARTHUR**