



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jim McMahon OBE MP

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Kent and Medway Council Leaders

Appendix 6

10 December 2024

Dear all,

Thank you for your letter to the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, of 11 October, regarding devolution. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area. I apologise on behalf of the department for the delay in your reply.

I strongly agree with you that the Kent and Medway region is a strong candidate to take advantage of this Government's dedicated push towards English devolution. We are working with local leaders to deliver the most ambitious programme of devolution this country has ever seen, and I would be delighted to work with you to ensure that Kent and Medway stand to benefit from this.

This Government believes that the benefits of devolution are best achieved through the establishment of combined authorities or combined county authorities over sensible economic geographies, such as Kent and Medway, and supported by a mayor. We want every part of England to take its place on the Council of Nations and Regions, with strong and effective partnerships in place with councils and other partners to deliver the missions we have set out to transform the country.

The Government will soon publish an English Devolution White Paper. This will set an ambitious new framework for English devolution, moving power out of Westminster and back to those who know their areas best. It will give deeper powers for existing mayors as well as for new areas, including more powers over house building and planning, as well as transport and skills. It will also set out how we will make it easier to provide powers quickly to more areas and to build the framework over time.

My team and I would be delighted to work with you to explore how Kent and Medway could benefit from the policies set out in the White Paper. I understand you already had some productive discussions with my officials and I am determined to continue this positive engagement as we continue to work to unlock ambitious and deeper devolution for your region.

Thank you again for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP

Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution