

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government
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London
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By Email: psangelarayner@communities.gov.uk

Date: 30 September 2024
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Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter and invitation to submit an expression of interest in a devolution deal. I am delighted to be responding on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council and with the support of a number of councils across Sussex, who are co-signatories of this letter.

Sussex has so much potential. We are proudly home to a beautiful coastline and national park, three leading universities, a Premier League football team and international gateways including the UK's second largest airport in Gatwick, and the ports of Shoreham and Newhaven. The total population of Sussex is 1,705,800 and as a region we welcome over 60 million visitors each year. We have so much to offer but have not yet reached our potential.

Despite our relative prosperity, there are significant regional disparities, with pockets of deprivation and unmet potential. Devolution has the potential to turn these challenges into opportunities, and support collaboration to drive economic and social benefits. We are therefore excited by the government's commitment to go further with devolution and recognise the real opportunity this presents for us to deliver change for our residents.

As you will see from the enclosed Expression of Interest, at this stage we remain open to the preferred geography of devolution for Sussex and are committed to working together as more details emerge from government. For now, we indicate our strong support in the principle of a devolution deal for Sussex and look forward to opening discussions with government on evolving a model to better fit local needs and priorities, ensuring that any new arrangements are effective, inclusive, and tailored to the unique context of Sussex.

We are keen that our approach to devolution will be resident-led, and we will be engaging residents, businesses and local organisations, at the earliest opportunity, inviting them to inform and shape the process.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you to explore these options further and develop a devolution deal that maximizes local autonomy, accountability, and impact.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Bella Sankey
Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council
Councillor for Wish Ward



Councillor Martin Boffey
Leader of Horsham District Council
Councillor for Trafalgar Ward



Councillor Sophie Cox
Leader of Worthing Borough Council
Labour Councillor for Castle Ward



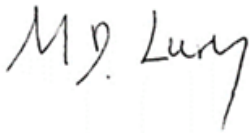
Councillor Robert Eggleston
Leader Mid Sussex District Council
Member for Meeds & Hammonds Ward – Burgess Hill



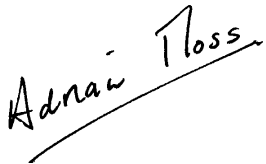
Councillor Jeremy Gardner
Leader of Adur District Council
Councillor for St Mary's Ward



Councillor Michael Jones
Leader of Crawley Borough Council
Councillor for Bewbush & North Broadfield Ward



Councillor Martin Lury
Leader of Arun District Council
Councillor for Bersted Ward



Councillor Adrian Moss
Leader of the Chichester District Council
Councillor Harbour Villages Ward

