



Hampshire County Council

D1.1/pf/0268

24 June 2015

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Secretary of State for
Communities and Local Government
2nd Floor NW, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DF

Councillor Roy Perry
Leader of the Council

*The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UJ
Telephone 01962 847750
Fax 01962 845969
www.hants.gov.uk*

Dear Greg

I am pleased to tell you that The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA) unanimously agreed at its meeting on the 19 June to support a proposal for a Hampshire-wide Combined Authority covering the County Council, the 11 Districts and the three Unitary Councils of Portsmouth, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight as the basis for developing a devolution deal for this area. Whilst we are predominantly Conservative Councils this had support from the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent Council Leaders who were all present or represented. Our intention would be that the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (Solent and M3) for the area will form integral parts of the arrangements.

At the same time it was agreed that future governance arrangements would be designed to take account of the functional responsibilities of the Combined Authority and reflect the economic, social, and environmental variations across the area. In addition, the County Council committed itself to "double devolution" with district councils, where they wished and where appropriate, for such functions to be delegated from the County Council.

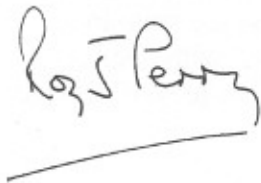
We agreed the broad outline of our offer to Government, to achieve administrative efficiencies and economies for the public sector and drive economic growth in line with the areas key sectoral strengths. We will now work on this and consider how this can be achieved with a view to submitting devolution proposals to you by the end of July 2015. These proposals would be built upon the existing powers and responsibilities and current boundaries of the local authorities. I believe this to be a very significant set of decisions for the economic wellbeing of the people who live in this key area in Southern England, and offers potentially enormous benefits to Government and the authorities over how public services are run and transformed. I hope in due course you will support our proposals when we have fleshed out more of the detail.

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Each of the local authorities committed to put to their Councils a resolution to this effect so that we have each Council's full agreement to the above proposals. On this occasion as Chairman of HIOWLGA I have written to you on behalf of the local authorities and with the full agreement of each Leader, namely:

Councillor Simon Letts	Leader Southampton City Council
Councillor Stephen Godfrey	Leader Winchester City Council
Councillor Ferris Cowper	Leader East Hampshire District Council
Councillor Clive Sanders	Leader Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Councillor Peter Moyle	Leader Rushmoor Borough Council
Councillor Sean Woodward	Leader Fareham Borough Council
Councillor Donna Jones	Leader Portsmouth City Council
Councillor Barry Rickman	Leader New Forest District Council
Councillor Stephen Parker	Leader Hart District Council
Councillor Mark Hook	Leader Gosport Borough Council
Councillor Jonathan Bacon	Leader Isle of Wight Council
Councillor Ian Carr	Leader Test Valley Borough Council
Councillor Michael Cheshire	Leader Havant Borough Council
Councillor Keith House	Leader Eastleigh Borough Council

Yours sincerely



Councillor Roy Perry
Leader of Hampshire County Council
Chairman of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association