

James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

10 October 2018

Dear Secretary of State

Unlocking Yorkshire Devolution

Further to your letter of 9th July and ours of 16th July, we wanted to update you on the significant areas of progress made over the summer in order to make a compelling case for devolving to Yorkshire and to propose a practical way forward.

First, we commissioned, and have now considered the findings of, an independent study on the economic rationale for devolving to Yorkshire, which is attached to this letter. We hope you will welcome the study's conclusions including that devolving to the Yorkshire level would drive significantly improved economic and social outcomes, to both local and national benefit post Brexit. The study finds that there is strong local business support for devolving powers, with a majority favouring devolution to the Yorkshire level, and also that devolution could deliver between £9bn and £30bn-a-year increase in Yorkshire's economic output, equating to up to £5,400 per person annually over 20 years.

Second, building on our submission to your predecessor in March, we have further developed our governance proposals – based on a single One Yorkshire Combined Authority which would be overseen by a directly elected Mayor from May 2020. You will see from our attached proposals that we have addressed Government's requirement that appropriate governance arrangements would need to be put in place that reflect Yorkshire's scale and diversity.

Finally, we propose what we believe would be, with your support, a pragmatic way forward to both unlock and implement the Sheffield City Region (SCR) devolution deal and progress a transformational One Yorkshire deal which includes all 18 of the undersigned authorities from day one. We understand the Government's position that the first step towards a One Yorkshire deal is to ensure the full implementation of the SCR deal. In order to enable our ambition for the election of a One Yorkshire Mayor in 2020, we would however propose that the two distinct processes should be progressed in parallel instead of entirely sequentially. A proposed route map, included in the attached governance paper, sets out the timings of key steps including statutory processes. The timings are ambitious, but we believe with Government support, ultimately achievable.

In terms of the immediate proposed next step, and based on recent legal advice obtained by Barnsley and Doncaster Councils, we understand the Order which would

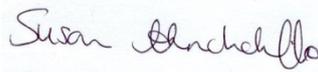
fully implement the SCR deal could be prepared without the requirement for further public consultation. This would enable all South Yorkshire local authorities, and the SCR Mayor, to reach agreement in principle to consent to the Order, providing sufficient progress is made in negotiations with Government on a One Yorkshire deal, and there is SCR Combined Authority agreement for Barnsley and Doncaster to leave.

We would be delighted to meet with you to progress negotiations on an historic One Yorkshire deal. This letter is also copied to your officials who no doubt will welcome early and constructive discussions with our officers over this significant opportunity for delivering transformational growth for Yorkshire and the national economy.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Stephen Houghton
Leader, Barnsley Council



Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe
Leader, Bradford Council



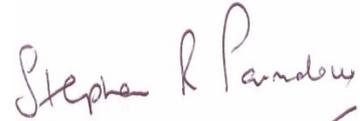
Cllr Tim Swift
Leader, Calderdale Council



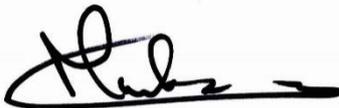
Cllr Richard Foster
Leader, Craven District
Council



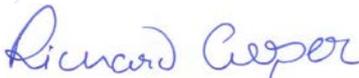
Mayor Ros Jones
Doncaster Council



Cllr Stephen Parnaby
Leader, East Riding of
Yorkshire Council



Cllr Mark Robson
Leader, Hambleton District
Council



Cllr Richard Cooper
Leader, Harrogate Borough
Council



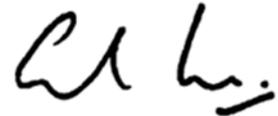
Cllr Stephen Brady
Leader, Hull City Council



Cllr Shabir Pandor
Leader, Kirklees Council



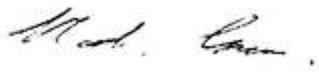
Cllr Judith Blake
Leader, Leeds City Council



Cllr Carl Les
Leader, North Yorkshire
County Council

Yvonne Peacock

Cllr Yvonne Peacock
Leader, Richmondshire
District Council



Cllr Mark Crane
Leader, Selby District
Council



Cllr Ian Gillies
Leader, City of York Council

Endorsement from Ryedale
District Council



Mayor Dan Jarvis MP
Sheffield City Region



Cllr Derek Bastiman
Leader, Scarborough
Borough Council



Cllr Peter Box
Leader, Wakefield Council

