



Kent
COUNCIL LEADERS

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution
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London SW1P 4DF

Kent Council Leaders

c/o Partnerships Team
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 416 858

Ask for: Tim Woolmer

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21 March 2025

Dear Minister of State,

Kent Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation

Thank you for your letter dated 05 February 2025 inviting Leaders of all 14 Local Authorities across Kent & Medway to submit an interim plan for reorganisation of Local Government in our county.

We are pleased to be able to respond collectively setting out our joint and collaborative approach to reorganisation. This includes where we have got to at this early checkpoint, our strong aspiration to be able to submit a full business case by the 28 November 2025 deadline and the plans in place to complete the work necessary in the interim to enable us to do so. Alongside this main submission, some of our Local Authorities will be writing supplementary letters with further detail.

Whilst not currently included within the Devolution Priority Programme, we in Kent are still in the pursuit of the very best devolutionary arrangements for all of our residents and we are keen to ensure that any reorganisation is completed in full alignment with, and through the prism of, achieving full devolution at the earliest opportunity. To that effect, we seek urgent clarification on the timescales for devolution in Kent. Within our interim plan, we set out our rationale as for why devolution is so critical for us and specifically what makes Kent with our size and scale, coterminous boundaries, and strategic position as the international gateway to the UK exceptional in that regard.

We are grateful for the time you and your civil servants have set aside to work with us to this point and we look forward to continuing to work closely with your team and MHCLG colleagues in progressing our work around both devolution and reorganisation in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Kent and Medway Council Leaders



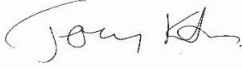
Noel Ovenden

Leader, Ashford Borough Council



Alan Baldock

Leader, Canterbury City Council



Jeremy Kite MBE

Leader, Dartford Borough Council



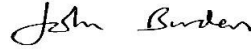
Kevin Mills

Leader, Dover District Council



Jim Martin

Leader, Folkestone & Hythe District Council



John Burden

Leader, Gravesham Borough Council



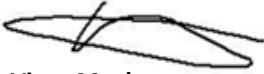
Roger Gough

Leader, Kent County Council



Stuart Jeffery

Leader, Maidstone Borough Council



Vince Maple

Leader, Medway Council



Roddy Hogarth

Leader, Sevenoaks District Council



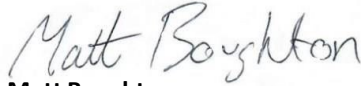
Tim Gibson

Leader, Swale Borough Council



Rick Everitt

Leader, Thanet District Council



Matt Boughton

Leader, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council



Ben Chapelard

Leader, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council