



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2025/02944

Rodger Gough
Leader of the Council
Sessions House
County Road, Maidstone, Kent
ME14 1XQ

Vince Maple
Leader of the Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road, Chatham
Kent ME4 4TR

30 January 2025

Dear Rodger and Vince,

Thank you for your letter of 10 January expressing your interest in joining the Devolution Priority Programme and to delivering both reorganisation and devolution to the most rapid timeframe.

I am grateful for your enthusiasm in responding to our ambitious plans, and I would like to thank you particularly for the rapid work you have done to bring together this proposal in order to meet the challenging deadline. I do not underestimate, and thoroughly appreciate, the collaborative work you have shown in producing this expression of interest.

I am working with my officials to review your proposal in detail, and I will be in touch with my decision as soon as is practically possible.

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