



The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government
Department for Communities & Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

4th April 2017

Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for your response of 6 March committing Government to supporting civic and business leaders to continue to work together to reach an agreed position on geography for further devolution in Yorkshire. I and my colleagues concur with your ambition to see devolution to strong combined authorities in our major cities; we see it as a vital part of driving real economic and social change so an inclusive UK economy works for all as we embark on a new era of international opportunity.

The clear criteria you provide is particularly helpful. Government has been clear and consistent that a directly elected mayor is required for an ambitious deal. While our communities and different political groups within our councils have reservations about the need for - and cost of - another politician, we feel all parties should be prepared to compromise in the interests of better social and economic outcomes. On that basis, councils accept a directly-elected mayor goes hand-in-hand with a deal that matches the ambition of local businesses, communities and local authorities.

We are all frustrated by the collective lack of progress, so I support strongly your desire to conclude a deal as soon as possible this year. That requires meaningful progress soon, so I agree with your suggested meeting and have asked my office to work with your officials to facilitate.

Locally, I have shared your letter with Leaders across Yorkshire as well as all members of the Combined Authority. This ensures widespread understanding of our responsibility to make progress, and I and my colleagues will continue to work hard so you are provided with options that meet the criteria.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Box".

Cllr Peter Box CBE
Chair, West Yorkshire Combined Authority

cc: Andrew Percy MP, Melanie Dawes, Simon Ridley, Andrew Battarbee



West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Wellington House, 40 - 50 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 2DE

Tel: 0113 251 7272 Fax: 0113 251 7331 www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk