

Rt Hon Boris Johnson  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

24 July 2019

Dear Prime Minister

## **Securing Devolution Across Yorkshire**

Many congratulations on your recent election, and we look forward to working with you and your Government to take forward our shared ambitions.

In recent months we have had very constructive talks with Ministers and their officials to secure meaningful devolution in Yorkshire. We hope that your arrival can allow devolution across Yorkshire to become a reality and complete the missing part of the jigsaw in the devolution map in England. The proposal, which provides the opportunity to add £30bn a year to the economy, demonstrates the commitment and cross party support to deliver transformational benefits across the region.

Devolution in Yorkshire is critical to deliver our shared objectives, which cross political divides and are about growth in a post-Brexit world. It aligns to your stated priorities of more investment in desperately needed transport and full fibre digital infrastructure, increase inward investment and help our companies export, deliver more houses to meet the acute shortage across the county, quicken the progress we are making in sustainable energy generation and carbon capture, better address the skills shortages in our workforce, and critically, help tackle deprivation, both urban and rural, wherever it exists in our communities.

Our previous proposal to Government in 2018 was turned down. We have listened to the reasons given for this Government decision, and have revised our approach so that it keeps true to our ambition for a Yorkshire deal, while securing interim arrangements to allow the benefits of devolution for our communities in cities, towns and rural areas to be felt more immediately.

Our proposal is twofold.

- For you to agree to joint work between your Government and ourselves that aims to have a Yorkshire deal in place in 2022. We are asking you to share a joint aim to achieve it, pursue meaningful negotiation and undertake the work necessary to make that a reality. Your agreement to this would, in a stroke, unblock the impasse that has existed between many of our authorities and your predecessor Governments and add up to £30 billion to the regional economy.
- For you to commit to the necessary interim arrangements within each sub region to allow meaningful devolution within Yorkshire between now and

2022. This would allow the Northern Powerhouse to fully realise its potential in the short term and for you therefore to have devolution deals in place across the major metropolitan areas of the north and the vital port and energy infrastructure in the east of the County, ensuring we are well placed to take advantage of the post-Brexit opportunity and ensure that no part of Yorkshire is left behind.

Your commitment would allow:

- The South Yorkshire Deal powers and funding unlocked, in place and used, in interim until the end of the current mayoral term in 2022, when those authorities who wish to do so would become part of the wider Yorkshire deal.
- An interim deal to be done in Leeds City Region (based on a model involving full and associate member councils) commensurate with those in other large metropolitan areas.
- Interim deals to be done across each sub region to maximise the post Brexit opportunity and the impact of the Local Industrial Strategies

We have already worked through much of the detail of these propositions with your officials in the Treasury and in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Growth. We welcome further dialogue with them, and your championing of this devolution proposal is critical to make these plans a reality and make its delivery a priority in those Departments.

We hope that you will consider our proposal favourably, and we would of course welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you. It would send the clearest signal of intent to the people of Yorkshire to receive confirmation of your support for our proposal on or before Yorkshire day on 1 August. Together we can unlock the potential for Yorkshire!

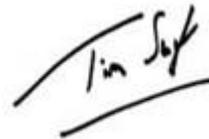
Yours sincerely,



Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton  
Leader, Barnsley  
Metropolitan Borough  
Council



Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe  
Leader, City of Bradford  
Metropolitan District  
Council



Cllr Tim Swift MBE  
Leader, Calderdale  
Council



Cllr Richard Foster  
Leader, Craven District  
Council



Mayor Ros Jones CBE  
Doncaster Council



Cllr Richard Burton  
Leader, East Riding of  
Yorkshire Council



Cllr Richard Cooper  
Leader, Harrogate  
Borough Council



Cllr Stephen Brady OBE  
Leader, Hull City Council



Cllr Shabir Pandor  
Leader, Kirklees Council



Cllr Judith Blake CBE  
Leader, Leeds City  
Council



Cllr Carl Les  
Leader, North Yorkshire  
County Council



Cllr Angie Dale  
Leader, Richmondshire  
District Council



Cllr Keane Duncan  
Leader, Ryedale  
District Council



Cllr Steve Siddons  
Leader, Scarborough  
Borough Council



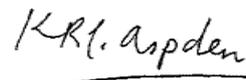
Cllr Mark Crane  
Leader, Selby District  
Council



Mayor Dan Jarvis MP  
Sheffield City Region



Cllr Peter Box CBE  
Leader, Wakefield  
Council



Cllr Keith Aspden  
Leader, City of York  
Council