

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick
Secretary of State for Housing Communities
and Local Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government

Simon Clarke MP
Minister for Regional Growth & Local Government

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County Councillor for Wingerworth and
Shirland (Conservative)

Ref: BL/LB
4 September 2020

Dear Secretary of State/Minister

Vision Derbyshire – A New Model of Local Government for Derbyshire

We are writing to you as the Leaders of Derbyshire County Council and all eight District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire. We have been working together cross party, over the last eighteen months, committing financial resources and time, to develop a new collaborative model for local government and we would welcome a meeting to talk to you about our ambitions for the future.

We are currently in the process of finalising our case for change and proposition to Government, with all nine councils working collaboratively to address the most complex challenges facing local, regional and national government at the current time. Our plans will secure better outcomes for people and place, contribute to the Government's levelling up agenda and result in substantial financial savings, for local government and the wider system, which will support economic and community recovery and growth post-Brexit and post-Covid19. Working collaboratively will not only realise social and economic gains, but will enable councils to implement opportunities at a hyper local level within a large strategic structure.

We believe that the concept we are proposing for Derbyshire provides a viable alternative to unitarisation and with additional powers, resources, freedoms and flexibilities we will be able to implement plans at speed, focussing on the outcomes we want to achieve for our residents, businesses and communities rather than costly and time-consuming structural reform. We also believe that the model we are proposing for Derbyshire will enable us to speak with one voice, support regional ambitions for a streamlined and coherent East Midlands and align to the imminent Devolution and Recovery White Paper.

We are keen to test our approach and discuss our plans with you at the earliest opportunity, not least because we feel the model is one which could be applied and adopted in other areas of the country. A meeting to discuss the concept would be of immense value and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

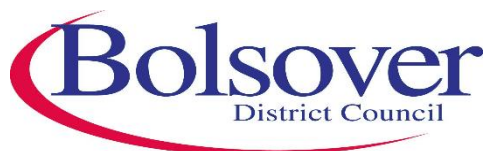
Yours sincerely
See page 2 for signatories



Cllr Barry Lewis
Leader of Derbyshire County Council



Cllr Chris Emmas-Williams
Leader of Amber Valley Borough Council



Cllr Steve Fritchley
Leader of Bolsover District Council



Cllr Tricia Gilby
Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council



Cllr Garry Purdy
Leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council



Cllr Carol Hart
Leader of Erewash Borough Council



Cllr Anthony Mckeown
Leader of High Peak Borough Council



Cllr Alex Dale
Leader of North East Derbyshire District Council



Cllr Martyn Ford
Leader of South Derbyshire District Council