



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

**Kent Council Leaders**

c/o Partnerships Team  
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Kent ME14 1XQ

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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**



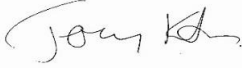
**Noel Ovenden**

*Leader, Ashford Borough Council*



**Alan Baldock**

*Leader, Canterbury City Council*



**Jeremy Kite MBE**

*Leader, Dartford Borough Council*



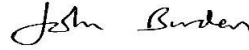
**Kevin Mills**

*Leader, Dover District Council*



**Jim Martin**

*Leader, Folkestone & Hythe District Council*



**John Burden**

*Leader, Gravesham Borough Council*



**Roger Gough**



**Stuart Jeffery**

*Leader, Maidstone Borough Council*



**Vince Maple**

*Leader, Medway Council*



**Roddy Hogarth**

*Leader, Sevenoaks District Council*



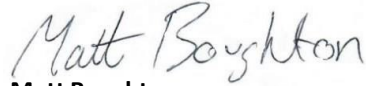
**Tim Gibson**

*Leader, Swale Borough Council*



**Rick Everitt**

*Leader, Thanet District Council*



**Matt Boughton**

*Leader, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council*



**Ben Chapelard**

*Leader, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council*