

CABINET 6 July 2015

THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7 July 2015

DEVOLUTION: DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR DEVOLVED POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Prior to the General Election there was a significant national debate about the devolution of power, funding and responsibilities from Whitehall to local government. The creation of a Combined Authority for Greater Manchester has been the flagship example of how this might work.

With the return of a majority Conservative Government, there is a political commitment to further devolution, based on the model of a Combined Authority, but with much scope for local flexibility. This report outlines the discussion which has taken place across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and seeks authority for the Leader and Chief Executive to work with other local authorities to develop a model for devolution which meets our needs as well as the aims of Government.

Further reports will be brought to Members to seek agreement to the approach which emerges from those discussions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### To Cabinet

That Cabinet:

1. Note the local discussions on the devolution of powers and responsibilities from Whitehall and agree to the Leader and Chief Executive working alongside colleagues in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to develop a model for devolution which meets local needs;
2. Give the Chief Executive delegated authority, in consultation with Group Leaders, to approve the initial proposal for submission to Government; and
3. Agree that a further report be brought to Cabinet and Council once detailed proposals have been discussed with Government.

### To The Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Council

4. That The Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Council note the local discussions on the devolution of powers and responsibilities from Whitehall and draw to the Leader's attention any matters of concern.

CABINET 6 July 2015THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7 July 2015DEVOLUTION: DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR DEVOLVED POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIESREPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVEDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 The concept of devolution, whether to the nations of the UK or to local authorities, has attracted much debate in recent months, within local government circles and in the national press. The Coalition Government took steps to devolve powers, responsibilities and control over funding to the Scottish and Welsh Assemblies, and to some of England's larger cities. The new majority Conservative Government has shown renewed enthusiasm for devolution, with Greg Clark MP's appointment to DCLG providing added impetus.
- 1.2 The Manchester City Region, made up of ten unitary councils, has been the flagship for devolution to English regions. Those authorities made a formal commitment to closer working, underpinned by a joint governance and decision making structure and, at the Government's insistence, an Elected Mayor. In return, they have been given direct control over aspects of local transport, skills and economic development, including funding streams previously managed from Whitehall. Most notably, and building on a strong partnership with the NHS in the region, they have been given direct control over significant health budgets, facilitating greater integration between health and all aspects of social care.
- 1.3 This model, termed a Combined Authority, sets up new governance arrangements whereby certain local authority responsibilities are taken on by a joint body, with councils working together. It is not, however, an additional tier of government, it is simply a vehicle for taking decisions on certain matters in partnership. It also offers a mechanism by which the Government are comfortable in devolving powers and funding.
- 1.4 Combined Authorities have a statutory basis in the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009. The Coalition Government also developed City Deals, which provide a basis for enhanced powers for urban areas, with those areas in return making a commitment to Government to deliver certain outcomes. Portsmouth and Southampton, for example, have a City Deal which focuses on skills and economic development. A key element of all these arrangements is the two-way commitment from central to local and vice-versa.

- 1.5 Whilst there are a variety of approaches to devolution, the notion of a Combined Authority is becoming the preferred option for many, and the approach which the Government is committed to. The Cities & Local Government Devolution Bill, one of the first pieces of legislation brought before the new Parliament, strengthens the basis for this form of devolution, including, for example, provisions on Elected Mayors. A summary of the Bill is at Appendix 1. Others across the Country are following the example of Manchester in establishing new arrangements, and there are already combined authorities for the Sheffield and Leeds City Regions.
- 1.6 Whilst much of the press and political coverage has focused on the idea of these authorities creating a 'Northern Powerhouse', the Bill and the political rhetoric behind it make clear that this opportunity is open to all areas who wish to have access to wider powers. Cornwall, for example, seems likely to become a model of a largely rural unitary which goes down this route, and Derbyshire and Suffolk are exploring how the approach can work for counties and districts in two-tier areas.
- 1.7 Each solution will entail some form of pooled resources, shared governance and decision-making, and so surrender of sovereignty. The extent to which that happens is, of course, a judgement to be made locally. However, as the Bill makes clear, that will be the minimum the Government will expect if there is to be a meaningful devolution of powers and funding. Ultimately, Members will have to determine whether the prize is worth the price.
- 2 A Combined Authority for Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight?
  - 2.1 The area covered by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWA) is complex in governance terms, with one County, eleven District Councils, two Unitary Cities and the Isle of Wight – a unitary County Council. We have a good track record of joint working, ranging from all parties working on waste management through Project Integra through to bi-, tri- or multi-lateral partnerships to deliver a range of services. The area includes exemplary partnerships such as the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) and many examples of our local Councils working jointly with colleagues in other parts of the public and private sectors.
  - 2.2 Notwithstanding that co-operation, we also recognise the diversity of Hampshire and the Island, and do not seek to impose a "one-size-fits-all" model where different solutions would better serve a diversity of need. As Council's we are also anxious to protect our individual democratic identity and ensure a genuinely local voice is heard.
  - 2.3 There is no doubt that the Government's commitment to devolution offers an opportunity for the HIOWA Councils to gain greater local control over services and, potentially, budgets in a number of key areas. The Cities & Local Government Devolution Bill outlines a menu of options, with wider powers available to areas who opt for an Elected Mayor – although it is for the area to decide whether they wish to adopt a mayoral form of governance. There does

appear to be a good deal of flexibility and local choice in the governance model brought forward, and the devolution package sought. But it is crucial that any proposal put to Government is supported by all councils in the area.

### 3 Developing a Combined Authority

3.1 HIOWA's Leaders (or their representatives) discussed the question of whether they should together make a formal proposal for a Hampshire wide Combined Authority to the Government, and have written to the Secretary of State advising him they propose to do so – see Appendix 2.

3.2 Whilst much of the debate has focused on structure, the real question should be how revised governance arrangements could deliver improvements for our communities. There are a broad range of matters which may be included in the “ask” we make of Government, and Leaders discussed, *inter alia*:

- Local control over funding for skills, post-sixteen education, apprenticeships and lifelong learning;
- More local control over national infrastructure spending on transport and housing;
- A HIOWA wide “Better Care Fund” to better integrate social care across local government and the NHS;
- Freedom to borrow against the forecast proceeds of local growth (to support enabling infrastructure);
- A comprehensive public sector land bank, making surplus NHS and MOD land available for housing;
- Ability to use public procurement and national business support budgets to support local business growth; and
- 100% retention of growth in business rates.

3.3 There will be in return commitments the Government will expect us to deliver, for example around skills, economic growth and housing delivery. These are matters that will need to be discussed with Whitehall.

3.4 Leaders made clear that they will not just seek to see responsibilities and funding devolved to upper tier authorities. Their letter to the Secretary of State indicates they would expect to see further devolution and delegation where matters are better address through district services and/or at a more local level. County colleagues have made clear they are open to exploring greater integration and the potential for devolution in all areas of their responsibility.

### 4 Developing Joint Working

4.1 Perhaps as important as the opportunities for devolution is the impetus discussions about a Combined Authority might offer HIOWA Councils to

explore opportunities for closer working, shared service or service integration. We all face the challenges posed by the ongoing pressures on our budgets and, whilst we have a good record for sharing to drive efficiencies, we all recognise we could do better. Developing further our partnerships through a Combined Authority will reinvigorate that work.

- 4.2 There is already a rich mix of partnerships across the HIOWA area, and the formal governance structures which come with a Combined Authority will provide an umbrella for those partnerships to grow and develop. From Winchester's perspective, and doubtless that of most other Councils, we would want to see those partnerships and joint initiatives grow organically, and not be shoe-horned into a one-size-fits-all model. Thus, less formal joint working between clusters of districts or bi-lateral relationships with County or Unitary colleagues should be encouraged alongside the governance structures set up should we adopt a Combined Authority.
- 4.3 A central feature of HIOWA has been its willingness to work alongside non-council partners: from the Police and the PCC through parishes, the voluntary and community sector to the business community and Armed Forces. It is clear that Leaders do not want to see a Combined Authority lead to the loss of those relationships. As they seek to develop an appropriate local response to the devolution agenda they will want to maintain those links. Equally important will be to determine how the two LEPs which cover the HIOWA area can be part of this evolving partnership.

## 5 Conclusions and Next Steps

- 5.1 There is no doubt that the Government are seeking to use the Combined Authority model to devolve power and responsibilities. Whilst this comes with strings, and of course a recognition that accountability would also lie locally, it is nevertheless an opportunity Winchester and other HIOWA Councils should not ignore. There are real opportunities for devolution to a local level of funding which would support our priorities on skills and the economy, and the potential for our closer involvement in matters such as health and social care, where we have a real contribution to make.
- 5.2 Beyond the question of a Combined Authority, we should also encourage the discussions to consider how local partnerships and collaborative arrangements can develop to offer service improvements and greater efficiency. A 'without prejudice' discussion with fellow Councils will be timely as we take forward the fundamental review of how we are delivering our priority outcomes, which seeking opportunities for sharing, co-delivery and other joint working is an essential element of.
- 5.3 Over the next few weeks Leaders and Chief Executives will be developing a model for devolution under the umbrella of a Combined Authority across the HIOWA area, and ensuring that is seen as a basis for wider co-operation and collaboration. Leaders have committed to a formal submission of proposals to the Government by the end of July, although no doubt that will be the beginning of a negotiation.

- 5.4 Beyond that a clear timetable is yet to be established. This report for now simply invites Members' comments and seeks agreement to the Leader and Chief Executive taking an active part in these discussions, and authority for the initial submission to be endorsed following discussion with Group Leaders. As matters develop so there will be further reports to Members. The decision as to whether to formally be part of a Combined Authority, or indeed any other model which emerges, will be one for Council.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

##### 6 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 6.1 Securing greater devolution, and so enhanced local control, could assist in delivering a number of the Council's priority outcomes for the economy, environment and communities. It can also assist in our drive for efficiency.

##### 7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 At present there are no resource implications beyond officer time. As the proposed arrangements become clearer, so we will need to consider the resources that may be required as a consequence of any new powers or responsibilities as part of the annual budget process.

##### 8 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 8.1 The risks of any form of Combined Authority lie in the potential loss of control. They will need to be explored as options develop. There is an equal risk of the Council missing the opportunities devolution may give rise to if we do not play a part in the ongoing debate.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

As per appendices below..

#### APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Summary: The Cities & Local Government Devolution Bill

Appendix 2 – Letter from HIOWA Leaders to Greg Clark MP

# Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

## Executive Summary

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill ('the Devolution Bill') builds on the existing statutory framework for combined authorities set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

While much of the political narrative has been about devolution to the northern cities to create a 'northern powerhouse' the provisions of the Devolution Bill apply to all combined authorities and are therefore potentially accessible by Counties and Districts (including Unitary Authorities) across the whole of England.

While the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made his view clear that for combined authorities in city areas to benefit from the wider powers available to them under the Devolution Bill they must adopt a mayoral form of governance the Devolution Bill does not require a combined authority to be governed in this way. It is however the case that some powers are only available to mayoral combined authority e.g. precepting and taking over the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and, given the Chancellors position on cities, it is has to be a possibility that County combined authorities would also have to adopt a mayoral form of governance to be approved.

Notwithstanding the potential application of the Devolution Bill to County combined authorities the government's primary focus is still likely to be on facilitating mayoral combined authorities based on the major cities. The guidance issues with the Bill states in this respect,

'The context in which the powers are to be exercised is expected to be where the government has agreed devolutionary deals with particular areas. For example, in November 2014 such a deal was agreed with Greater Manchester, the implementation of which is being enabled through the provisions of this Bill'

The implication here is that for County combined authority deals to be agreed a particularly compelling case will have to be presented to the Government.

The Devolution Bill does however include wide ranging powers for the Secretary of State (with the consent of the relevant authorities) to change local authorities governance arrangements, constitutions, membership and structural and boundary changes. This is ostensibly to facilitate devolution deals in areas where, for example, a single County constitutes a functional economic area although the power is very wide ranging and could conceivable be used in other circumstances. The guidance issued with the Devolution Bill suggest that the power would be used where a combined authority was inappropriate and that any such 'devolution deal' may involve mergers of councils, moves to unitary structures or changing the democratic representation of the area with different electoral cycles and fewer Councillors. The Devolution Bill also includes powers for additional Local authority and central government functions to be undertaken by combined authorities.



## **Overview of the Devolution Bill**

The Devolution Bill is enabling legislation which provides a legislative framework which can be applied flexibly to different areas by regulations. It will enable regulations to:

- provide for an elected mayor for a combined authority's area who would exercise specified functions individually and chair the authority;
- provide for the possibility for the mayor additionally to undertake the functions of Police and Crime Commissioner for a combined authority area (in place of the Police and Crime Commissioner);
- where a mayor is to have Police and Crime Commissioner functions, cancel Police and Crime Commissioner elections that would otherwise have taken place and allow the current Police and Crime Commissioner's term of office to be extended until the mayor is in place;
- remove the current statutory limitation on functions that can be conferred on a combined authority (currently economic development, regeneration, and transport) enabling further local government and central government functions to be transferred to the combined authority; and
- provide for streamlined local governance as agreed by councils facilitating specific devolutions deals (ostensibly where a combined authority is not appropriate)

## **Mayoral Combined Authorities**

### **Clause 1: Power to provide for an elected mayor**

Clause 1 inserts new Sections into the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, which empower the Secretary of State to provide by order for there to be an elected mayor of a combined authority area, who would be a member of, and chair, the combined authority.

The Devolution Bill provides that the Secretary of State can make an order for there to be an elected mayor of the area of a combined authority following a proposal being made by each county and district council within the area of a proposed, or existing, combined authority, or by an existing combined authority (the appropriate authorities) or with their consent.

Such an order can be made without a proposal being made if:

- (a) the Secretary of State considers it appropriate and all constituent councils consent; or

- (b) if all of the appropriate authorities, of an existing combined authority, consent save one does not wish to adopt the mayoral model.

In the event that one authority does not consent the Devolution Bill provides that the Secretary of State must make an order changing the area of the combined authority by removing the area of the non consenting constituent council from the existing area of the combined authority.

### **Clause 2: Deputy mayors etc.**

The Devolution Bill requires a mayor of the area of a combined authority to nominate a deputy mayor from the members of the combined authority. The deputy mayor would take over the functions of the mayor in the event that the mayor is unable to act (e.g. due to illness) or the office of mayor is vacant (e.g. the mayor resigns). The deputy mayor cannot however perform Police and Crime Commissioner functions although a separate deputy can be appointed to perform them.

### **Clause 3: Functions**

A mayoral combined authority is a single body corporate, which comprises the mayor and the remaining members of the combined authority.

The Devolution Bill allows the Secretary of State to provide by order that any function that is a function of the mayoral combined authority is exercisable only by the mayor. The mayor may arrange:

- (a) for the deputy mayor to exercise any function exercisable by the mayor; or
- (b) for any other member or officer of the combined authority to exercise any such function.

The Devolution Bill provides that such an order may provide that the mayor may only delegate certain functions or that the mayor cannot delegate certain functions.

The Devolution Bill provides that an order may:

- (a) provide for members and officers of a mayoral combined authority to assist the mayor in the exercise of his/her functions;
- (b) confer ancillary powers on the mayor;
- (c) authorise the mayor to appoint a political adviser; and
- (d) provide for the terms and conditions of any appointment of a political adviser.

The Devolution Bill also enables the Secretary of State by order to enable the mayor to exercise the functions of a Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the area of the combined authority. Such an order may only be made with the consent of all appropriate authorities. Where such an order is made the Secretary of State must provide that there will be no Police and Crime Commissioner for that area from a specified date (in practice this will be the date that the mayor takes office) and enables the Secretary of State to cancel any Police and Crime Commissioner ordinary election that would otherwise take place in the area (whether before the date that the mayor takes over or after).

The order can also extend the term of the existing Police and Crime Commissioner for the area and cancel any Police and Crime Commissioner by-election to fill a vacancy that arises in the six month period before the date that the Police and Crime Commissioner functions pass to the mayor.

Further details about how a Mayor would exercise the functions of a Police and Crime Commissioner are set out in a schedule to the Bill.

#### **Clause 4: Financial matters**

The Devolution Bill amends the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to include a mayoral combined authority as a major precepting authority, and enables a precept to be set in relation to funding of the mayoral functions. It also inserts a new section enabling the Secretary of State to make provision for the costs of a mayor for the area of a combined authority that are incurred in, or in connection with, the exercise of mayoral functions to be met by precepts issued by the combined authority.

The Devolution Bill provides that the Secretary of State may by order make provision

- (a) requiring the mayor to maintain a fund in relation to receipts arising and liabilities incurred, in the exercise of the mayor's functions, and
- (b) about the preparation of an annual mayoral budget.

#### **Combined authorities: additional functions**

##### **Clause 5: Local authority functions**

The Devolution Bill enables any combined authority by order to be conferred a broader set of functions than economic development, regeneration and transport (the current scope of powers available to combined authorities). The order can be laid if the authorities concerned undertake a review and publish a scheme or the Secretary of State considers that the order is appropriate and the authorities provide consent. The authorities' review would consider whether the proposed changes would improve the exercise of the statutory functions.

##### **Clause 6: Other public authority functions**

The Devolution Bill enables the Secretary of State by order to make provision for a function of a public authority (a Minister of the Crown or a government department) that is exercisable in relation to a combined authority's area to be undertaken by the combined authority; or confer on a combined authority, in relation to its area, a function which corresponds to a function which another public authority has in relation to another area. Such an order may make provision for the combined authority to have the function instead of the public authority or for the public function

to be exercised concurrently with the public authority. It is not clear from the Devolution Bill just how these functions would be funded. The order under subsection may also make provision for:

- (a) the making of a scheme to transfer property, rights and liabilities from the public authority to the combined authority; and
- (b) abolishing the public authority if it will no longer have any functions.

The Devolution Bill specifies that such an order can only be made if;

- (a) the appropriate authorities make a proposal for the making of the order;
- (b) if, in the case of an existing combined authority, the authority consents and the Secretary of State considers that the making of the order is likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in the area or areas to which the area relates.

### **Combined authorities: other provision**

#### **Clause 7: Overview and scrutiny committees**

The Devolution Bill requires all combined authorities to establish one or more overview and scrutiny committee(s) with the functions and powers specified. It also enables the Secretary of State to make provision by order about the overview and scrutiny committee(s) of a combined authority. This provision may include details about the membership of an overview and scrutiny committee (it already provides that members of the combined authority cannot be members of the scrutiny committee) and the voting rights of such members; the person who is to be chair of such a committee; the appointment of a scrutiny officer of an overview and scrutiny committee; the circumstances in which matters may be referred to an overview and scrutiny committee; obligations on persons to respond to reports or recommendations made by an overview and scrutiny committee; the publication of reports, recommendations or responses; and the information which must, or must not, be disclosed to an overview and scrutiny committee.

#### **Clause 8: Funding of combined authorities**

The Devolution Bill enables the Secretary of State by regulations to provide that a combined authority can levy for transport and any specified functions with the consent of the constituent councils. Specified functions cannot include functions which are exercisable individually by the mayor. It also enables the Secretary of State by order to enable a combined authority to borrow to fund these specified functions, with councils' consent.

#### **Clause 9: General power of competence**

The Devolution Bill enables the Secretary of State by order to confer the General Power of Competence, on a combined authority, which would align its General Power of Competence with that of its constituent councils. The General Power of Competence gives authorities the same power to act that an individual generally has.

**Local authorities: governance and constitution**

**Clause 10: Governance arrangements etc. of local authorities in England**

The Devolution Bill provides for the Secretary of State to make regulations making provisions about local authorities' governance arrangements, their constitution and membership, and structural and boundary arrangements. For these purposes a local authority is a county council in England, a district council or a London Borough.

Governance arrangements mean the arrangements an authority operates for taking decisions, executive arrangement or the committee system.

The guidance issued alongside the Devolution Bill suggests that for structural, boundary, or other changes, the context in which this power could be used is where Devolution Deals, conferring powers and budgets on an area, are agreed by Government with areas where it may not be appropriate simply for the existing councils to establish a combined authority, or indeed where a combined authority is not appropriate.

The example given is where a single county, which may or may not be a unitary authority, covers a functional economic area which may be the basis for a Devolution Deal, and all the constituent councils involved agree that the strong and accountable governance needed for the new powers and budgets to be conferred on the area necessitates simplifying the local government structures for the area. That may involve mergers of councils, moves to unitary structures, or changing the democratic representation of the area with different electoral cycles and fewer councillors.

This power is intended to enable the Secretary of State to effect those changes simply and efficiently. Regulations under this clause are to be made only with the consent of the local authorities to which the regulations apply.



# Hampshire County Council

D1.1/pf/0268

24 June 2015

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Secretary of State for  
Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
LONDON SW13 5DU

Councillor Roy Perry  
*Leader of the Council*

*The Castle, Winchester  
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Dear Greg

I am pleased to tell you that The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA) unanimously agreed at its meeting on the 19 June to support a proposal for a Hampshire-wide Combined Authority covering the County Council, the 11 Districts and the three Unitary Councils of Portsmouth, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight as the basis for developing a devolution deal for this area. Whilst we are predominantly Conservative Councils this had support from the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent Council Leaders who were all present or represented. Our intention would be that the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (Solent and M3) for the area will form integral parts of the arrangements.

At the same time it was agreed that future governance arrangements would be designed to take account of the functional responsibilities of the Combined Authority and reflect the economic, social, and environmental variations across the area. In addition, the County Council committed itself to "double devolution" with district councils, where they wished and where appropriate, for such functions to be delegated from the County Council.

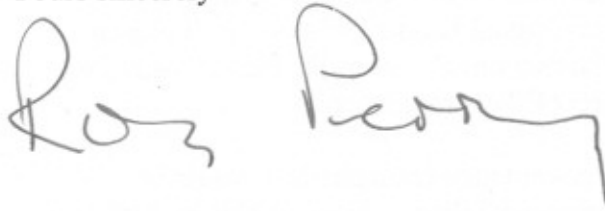
We agreed the broad outline of our offer to Government, to achieve administrative efficiencies and economies for the public sector and drive economic growth in line with the areas key sectoral strengths. We will now work on this and consider how this can be achieved with a view to submitting devolution proposals to you by the end of July 2015. These proposals would be built upon the existing powers and responsibilities and current boundaries of the local authorities. I believe this to be a very significant set of decisions for the economic wellbeing of the people who live in this key area in Southern England, and offers potentially enormous benefits to Government and the authorities over how public services are run and transformed. I hope in due course you will support our proposals when we have fleshed out more of the detail.

/continued.....

Each of the local authorities committed to put to their Councils a resolution to this effect so that we have each Council's full agreement to the above proposals. On this occasion as Chairman of HIOWLGA I have written to you on behalf of the local authorities and with the full agreement of each Leader, namely:

Councillor Simon Letts	Leader Southampton City Council
Councillor Stephen Godfrey	Leader Winchester City Council
Councillor Ferris Cowper	Leader East Hampshire District Council
Councillor Clive Saunders	Leader Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Councillor Peter Moyle	Leader Rushmoor Borough Council
Councillor Sean Woodward	Leader Fareham Borough Council
Councillor Donna Jones	Leader Portsmouth City Council
Councillor Barry Rickman	Leader New Forest District Council
Councillor Stephen Parker	Leader Hart District Council
Councillor Mark Hook	Leader Gosport Borough Council
Councillor Jonathan Bacon	Leader Isle of Wight Council
Councillor Ian Carr	Leader Test Valley Borough Council
Councillor Michael Cheshire	Leader Havant Borough Council
Councillor Keith House	Leader Eastleigh Borough Council

Yours sincerely



Councillor Roy Perry  
Leader of Hampshire County Council  
Chairman of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association