



**Bromsgrove**  
District Council  
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

4 September 2015

Dear Greg,

We have previously written to you regarding Worcestershire commencing work to understand the opportunities and challenges that a devolution 'deal' might offer. As Worcestershire Council Leaders and Chair of Worcestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) we are writing to provide an update on progress and intent.

Over the summer Worcestershire Councils have been working closely with partner organisations including Worcestershire LEP, West Mercia Police, our three Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health and Care Trust and Fire and Rescue Service as well as numerous other partners to explore how we take forward our vision for accelerated economic growth and transformational public sector reform. Our vision is clear and unanimous. The county has seen significant success in recent years with real terms growth in our economy between 2009 and 2013 bettered by only three counties nationwide and our single county LEP has proved amongst the most successful nationally in attracting foreign investment, and delivering growth deal ambitions. We are on the right path but challenges remain. If productivity levels in Worcestershire were raised to reflect the current average of the ten highest performing counties in the country, we would add more than £1bn to our economy – it is this scale of positive change that exemplifies our ambition for the county.

Our endeavours to reform public services have proven equally successful in recent times and are reflected in a number of accolades from central government, including status as one of the original 14 health and social care integration pioneers. Other notable achievements include the incorporation of a cross agency joint property vehicle – Place Partnership, demonstrating our commitment to genuine reform and an ability to work together to achieve it.

We have made a start in tackling complex dependency and its associated costs and our efforts have led to national recognition for our outcomes centric approach within the troubled families programme. Yet we know we can take this further, with increased cross agency sharing of both risk and reward in the pursuit of a fully integrated service which provides the tangible support these communities require. To this end, we envisage the creation of a single new organisation to sit at the vanguard of integration in tackling complex dependency of families, often generation to generation, across the county.

Tel 01905 766045 • Fax 01905 766644 • Minicom (01905) 766399 • DX 29941 Worcester 2  
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

**Adrian Hardman**  
Leader of the Council  
County Councillor

Electoral Division  
Bredon

County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP

Home  
Dormers  
Oak Lane  
Bredon  
Tewkesbury  
GL20 7LR

Tel: 01684 773172

Email  
aihardman@  
worcestershire.gov.uk

Worcestershire like many other areas has an increasingly ageing population, a population most likely to place complex demands on the health and social care system. In response, we aspire to deliver a health and social care service which maximises resources and delivers the highest standards of care for both the elderly and the wider population as a whole. It is our goal to integrate these services with our initiatives to maximise the potential of the older workforce and drive growth. These are simply examples of the extent of our aspiration for the services we provide.

Our vision for Worcestershire does not sit in spatial isolation and we recognise and embrace the importance of our relationships with our neighbours in the wider West Midlands, South West and South East regions and *Midlands Engine* more broadly. This is critical to the success of our economic plan and it is only by working with our partners that we will achieve our targets and deliver tangible benefits to UK plc and the Exchequer as well as raising living standards locally. Our reform agenda will not ignore the fact that key services span our county boundaries including both the police and fire authorities. Our vision is to work with these partners to truly transform the way services are delivered across the county and beyond.

We recognise that there is much we can do on our own to achieve this, but there is also a clear role for central government to work in tandem with us to deliver our goals. We also acknowledge that in order to realise our ambition, we will need to build on our excellent track record of two-tier working. Ours is a county where local government speaks with one voice and as one, we will commit to work towards a model of governance which satisfies both central and local government requirements and our Worcestershire residents.

Our work will reach a conclusion during the Autumn when we expect as Worcestershire Leaders, together with our LEP, to agree whether we need an explicit 'deal' with central government to achieve this vision. Should this be the case, our focus will be on a number of priorities, likely to include:

- infrastructure and investment
- skills and innovation
- health and social care
- public estates
- complex dependencies
- environment

Our asks are likely to range from the practical, for example, support from the Information Commissioner in setting new expectations of data sharing across partners through to the strategic, for example, duties to cooperate from Highways England and Network Rail in the context of our Strategic Economic Plan.

We will write to you again during the Autumn to update you on progress regardless of the local decision as to whether we decide to pursue a devolution deal. Finally, our thanks for the great support we have received from DCLG and BIS civil servants during recent months, particularly Rosie Seymour and Tony Bray.

Kind regards

---

*Adrian Hardman*

Adrian Hardman  
Leader of Worcestershire County Council

*M A Stansfeld*

Mark Stansfeld  
Worcestershire LEP

*Simon Geraghty*

Cllr Simon Geraghty  
Leader of Worcester City Council

*M. A. Sherry*

Cllr Margaret Sherry  
Leader of Bromsgrove District Council

*M. J. Hart*

Cllr Marcus Hart  
Leader of Wyre Forest District Council

*Bill Hartnett*

Cllr Bill Hartnett  
Leader of Redditch Borough Council

*L. Robinson*

Cllr Linda Robinson  
Leader of Wychavon District Council

*P. S. Grove*

Cllr Phil Grove  
Leader of Malvern Hills District Council