



To: The Leaders of District &
Borough Councils in Warwickshire

Councillor Izzi Seccombe
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Dear Leader,

I am writing to you to follow up on my letter of 4 September, where I communicated this Council's decision on devolution and also invited you to work with Warwickshire on our next steps. I would like to set out this council's position so that we can be clear where we are all at.

As you know Warwickshire County Council decided on 3 September that we would not enter into the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Instead we decided to look at alternative models for Coventry and Warwickshire. Since then Coventry City Council's Leader has indicated to me that they will not be working with us on the Coventry and Warwickshire option and so now we will begin the shaping of a Warwickshire Model for Devolution.

I am writing to ask you to be part of that work, to join with us in shaping the future for Warwickshire. Most importantly I want to understand what you and your communities would want from a devolution deal. We do have some ideas as to the basis for a devolution deal and in the first instance the sort of areas we would want to explore with you would include:-

- Economic Growth and prioritisation of investments
- Integration between national benefits agencies e.g, DWP and the function of councils in delivering on the Government's welfare agenda
- A Warwickshire-wide approach to housing provision and management whereby we deliver the planned housing stock and the infrastructure to support it
- A Warwickshire-wide approach to infrastructure including transport
- Health and Social Care integration with a Warwickshire-wide approach to commissioning and managing the health economy
- Integration of the national skills programmes with local delivery vehicles aligning the skills agenda to our economic growth priorities

- Reshaping the Schools commissioning function and applying a market management model
- A new model for Blue Light/Emergency Services
- Multiple geographic solutions for working with other neighbouring areas where it makes sense to do so.

I wholly recognise that this is by no means an exhaustive list, but there are substantial areas where together we could deliver significant public service reform and at the same time maximise economic growth for our shared communities. These are simply our initial ideas and I know that you will have more to add.

To that end I am planning to organise a Round Table event towards the middle of November. This will allow us to get together along with key partners to shape our ideas and aspirations. I will also be inviting Police and Health to that Round Table – both of whom have signalled their support for working with us in this way. The CWLEP also has responded positively to my invitation to work with us through our Member Working Group and I know will be keen to join us at our Round Table.


I recognise it will be inevitable that we touch on governance matters in that discussion and we will all be giving some thought as to what forms would work for us e.g, a Joint Committee. Equally I would hope that we can free ourselves from the governance conundrum to focus on our shared themes and priorities for a devolution deal.

I think it will be important that we have help in channelling our thoughts and that no single agency is seen to dominate. So, I will be looking to get some external support in facilitating that event - I would welcome ideas as to who could do a good job for us?

I do hope you see this as a positive way forward. I, and my colleagues at the County Council are hopeful that we can now move on to a much needed focus on Warwickshire and to crafting our shared vision for our future.

I look forward to your reply and to shaping Warwickshire's future together.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Izzi Seccombe
Leader, Warwickshire County Council

Cc; Chief Executives of Districts/Borough Councils in Warwickshire
WCC Mem-All
Warwickshire MPs