



Our ref: O-LO-2025-001  
13 January 2025

*Councillor Nick Adams-King  
Leader of the County Council  
The Castle, Winchester  
Hampshire SO23 8UJ  
Telephone 0370 7792878*

## **Sent by Email**

Dear Millie

### **Hampshire and Solent Devolution Proposals**

Thanks for your messages in respect of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) potentially joining Hampshire and the Solent's application to create a County Combined Authority under the Government's Devolution Priority Programme.

I have discussed your request with my colleagues Cllr Lorna Fielker, Leader of Southampton City Council, Cllr Steve Pitt, Leader of Portsmouth City Council and Cllr Phil Jordan, Leader of Isle of Wight Council. We all agree that there is commonality between BCP and Hampshire and the Solent and can understand why you would wish to pursue links to our Combined Authority area as opposed to that being formed by the Heart of Wessex authorities.

As you will be aware, there may be a challenge in the respect that BCP does not share the same public service footprint (police, fire and health in particular) as the four authorities creating the Hampshire and the Solent Combined Authority. You have reported that Baroness Taylor was open to discussion over how that might be overcome, and we are content that you explore this further with MHCLG.

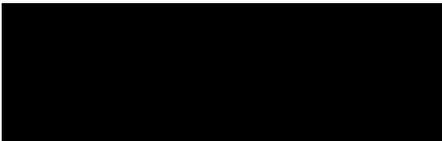
As you know, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Hampshire County Council submitted our application to join the Priority Devolution Programme on Friday 10th January. We are determined to proceed with our application at pace and would not wish for interest from any neighbouring authority to delay our progress.

I hope that makes our position clear.

Good luck with your Council meeting next week.

Best wishes

Nick



**Cllr Nick Adams-King**  
Leader  
Hampshire County Council