



**Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government**

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[www.gov.uk/dclg](http://www.gov.uk/dclg)

19 January 2016

Cllr Louise Goldsmith  
Leader, West Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
West Street  
Chichester  
PO19 1RQ

Dear Louise,

I was pleased to be able to meet with you and colleagues from the Three Southern Counties Region to discuss your devolution proposals recently. Thank you to you and the team for the work that you have put into this since we last spoke; it is clear that a lot of time and effort has gone into this, and I look forward to seeing how this work develops going forward.

I would encourage you to continue to liaise with officials at DCLG to work up your prioritised asks, as well as to be clear as to what asks you need devolution for, and what the area could already do without any devolved powers or funding. As I explained in the challenge session, it is important – for all your asks – that you consider the appropriate accountability structures needed, but this should not delay you in carrying forward those areas that you can already deliver and will make a real difference to the region. Your Cities and Local Growth Relationship Manager Philip Carr ([Philip.carr@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.carr@bis.gsi.gov.uk)) will continue to help you with this moving forward.

I hope to be able to meet with you again in the near future to see the progress that has been made.

*Best wishes,*  
*Sue*

**BARONESS WILLIAMS OF TRAFFORD**