

**Tan Dhesi MP**  
Shadow Exchequer Secretary  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

14 September 2023

Dear Shadow Exchequer Secretary,

On behalf of South East Councils (SEC), we offer our congratulations on your appointment as Shadow Exchequer Secretary.


As you will know, SEC is a representative body of 44-member councils, the voice of most local authorities across the South East of England. We are a cross-party association that campaigns to ensure that the South East is a great place to work, live and do business.

We would also like to share our thanks for your valued contribution to the *South East APPG* as a Vice-Chair. We have come some way since the inquiry into levelling up by the APPG, which highlighted challenges and deprivation in the South East and underscored the need for levelling up within the region as much as in parts of the North and Midlands.

SEC will be considering what fiscal levers for financial devolution in the region could be appropriate in our proposed South East Finance Commission (SEFC), which aims to undertake an investigation akin to the London Finance Commission and is expected to report early next year.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and updating with progress on the SEFC.


Yours sincerely,



**Cllr Nick Adams-King**  
Chair, South East Councils  
Deputy Leader of Test Valley Borough Council  
Conservative Party



**Cllr Jason Brock**  
Deputy Chair, South East Councils  
Leader of Reading Borough Council  
Labour Party



**Cllr Keith House**  
Deputy Chair, South East Councils  
Leader of Eastleigh Borough Council  
Liberal Democrats



**Cllr Hannah Dalton**  
Deputy Chair, South East Councils  
Leader of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council  
Independent Group