

Stephen Morgan MP
Shadow Minister for Rail
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

14 September 2023

Dear Shadow Minister for Rail,

On behalf of South East Councils (SEC), we offer our congratulations on your appointment Shadow Minister for Rail.

As you will know, SEC is a representative body of 44-member councils and serves as 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.

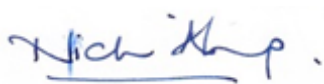
Published twice a year, our South East 1,000 regional monitor, sees SEC partner with Savanta ComRes to produce the largest and most authoritative regular survey of councillor, business and public opinion in the region. This includes transport, with our last issue showing that 'Reducing transport related carbon emissions to net zero by 2050' remains the highest ranked local priority for respondents overall at 50%.

We would also like to share our thanks for your valued contribution to the *South East APPG* as a Vice-Chair. We look forward to sharing our next report with you once published, following our second inquiry entitled: "*The South East and 'Global Britain': what role for transport infrastructure in underpinning Britain's plan to trade and grow?*".

Moving forward, 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 working with you and once again congratulate you on your new role.

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