

Jacob Young MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

28 September 2023

Dear Minister,

On behalf of South East Councils (SEC), we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

As a representative body of 44 member councils, SEC is 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.

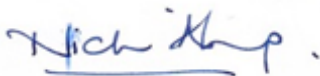
The *APPG for the South East*, chaired by Sally-Ann Hart MP with SEC serving as secretariat, highlighted challenges and deprivation in the South East in its inquiry into levelling up, underscoring the need for levelling up within the region as much as in parts of the North and Midlands. The Summit of the South East (SOTSE) followed, co-hosted by SEC, Localis thinktank and the MJ, a conference that brought together place leaders to discuss shared challenges and structures of local government.

Our proposed South East Finance Commission (SEFC) will be considering the appropriate fiscal levers for financial devolution in the South East, aiming to undertake an investigation in a style similar to the London Finance Commission, expected to report early next year.

Levelling up here is a vital part of levelling up the country as a whole; the South East is one of only three regions to make a net contribution to the Exchequer.

We believe that with more control over its destiny, the South East can do and deliver more for the whole country. Once again, we congratulate you on your new role, and we look forward to working with you.

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