



Dear Secretary of State,

We welcome the opportunity to express our interest in commencing discussions with you and your colleagues in Government about the potential for a Devolution Deal for Cumbria.

The economic growth prospects for Cumbria are significantly going to contribute to the Northern Powerhouse and National Economy. In particular, providing significant and sustainable security of energy supply which will be a major contribution to the national low carbon targets. An increase in housing growth is necessary to support economic growth.

Approximately £25 billion of private sector investment is proposed in Cumbria and we, as the major leadership across the public sector and working collaboratively with the private sector led LEP, believe we can make an outstanding offer to government in return for a package of Devolution measures.

We would also like to explore with government the potential for delivering public services differently to drive up standards whilst delivering the required efficiencies.

We see our attached document as a realistic list of issues that we could usefully discuss and, if we are able to secure an agreement on a package of measures, then we will explore suitable mechanisms to ensure that public money is used accountably and provides good value.

We recognise that Government will discuss all aspects of the High Level Proposition Paper, but our priority for early resolution will be:

- **Release of capital receipts from the Moorside development and the provision of future business rate growth (or the equivalent) from the nuclear new build, as well as resolving the outstanding business rates appeals issues related to Sellafield;**
- **Creation of Investment and Infrastructure Funds from forward commitments of Growth Programme funds, longer term transport allocations and future business rate growth;**
- **Buyout of PFI schemes related to the health estate;**
- **A new relationship with the Skills Funding Agency and HEFCE to secure long-term commitment to their programmes;**
- **A Rural Productivity Plan agreed with DEFRA;**
- **Early discussions with DCMS to deliver the Prime Minister's 5 year Plan for Tourism in Cumbria;**
- **A 5 year Housing Investment Fund from the HCA; and**
- **Greater local oversight of the Criminal Justice system in the county.**

We would ask for government support for this process in return for a substantial deal that will benefit residents, the business community, and the 41.5 million visitors to Cumbria.

We very much hope that you will welcome our desire to work collaboratively with government to deliver the benefits of economic growth and improved public service delivery for all parties.

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