



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Elizabeth Fagan &
James Muir
LEP Chairs
D2N2 LEP
Sheffield City Region LEP

Jake Berry MP
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Dear Elizabeth and James,

I am writing to you to follow up on your progress to remove the remaining overlaps. I am keen to bring this to a conclusion and my office will be in touch to arrange a meeting in May for you to take me through your progress, and in particular for you to confirm the detail of the collaboration agreements which you are putting in place. The Government remains clear that overlaps reduce accountability, simplicity and clarity across the whole network of LEPs and that these should be removed. Ahead of our meeting, you should work with my officials from the Cities and Local Growth Unit to develop these collaboration agreements. You should work together to ensure jointly-agreed proposed overlap resolutions and collaboration agreements are submitted to Stephen Jones, the Director of the Cities & Local Growth Unit (leppolicy@communities.gov.uk), by the end of April.

That said, you are in a strong position and I wanted to recognise the strong partnership working within your respective Local Enterprise Partnerships over recent years and what each LEP has achieved for your local economies. As you are both starting out on your journey of being Chair, you should be assured that this Government is determined to build on your LEPs' accomplishments to date to develop long-term strategies through Local Industrial Strategies as we design the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

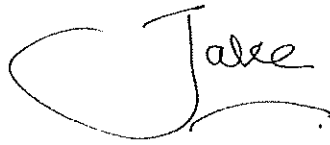
I know that eliminating overlaps is challenging. Both LEPs have said that they would wish to see the views of the local authorities which cover overlap areas before coming to final conclusions. I was pleased to hear that in recent weeks four of the five overlapping areas (Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Derbyshire Dales and North East Derbyshire) have, in principle, decided they should be part of the D2N2 LEP. However, I understand that Chesterfield has still yet to determine its preference.

I am delighted that there now seems to be movement towards agreeing the best way to remove overlaps for the area. In light of this and the fact that county councils hold responsibility for infrastructure, economic development and transport, in my view the cleanest solution is for all the five districts in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to be in the same LEP as the county councils. I also believe that as we make progress towards completing the implementation of the devolution deal for the Sheffield City Region, it makes sense to have common boundaries for the mayoral combined authority (MCA) and the LEP, with the districts remaining as non-constituent members of the MCA.

As we have consistently made clear, we accept that these are not hard boundaries, especially for business and economic activity. The original submissions from both of your LEPs showed that the overlap areas are genuinely part of both the D2N2 and Sheffield City Region functional economic areas. So while we are committed to the removal of overlaps, we are equally determined that there should be collaboration between LEPs across boundaries. We will hold LEPs accountable for how well they work with neighbouring LEPs to develop strategies for places which are in two or more functional economic areas.

Thank you once again for all the work that you are doing locally to drive progress in our economy. I look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a trailing flourish.

JAKE BERRY MP

CC: Cllr Gilby (Chesterfield), Cllr Lewis (Derbyshire County)