

Agenda 7 b)

COUNCIL

16/01/25



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2024/27075

Cllr Stephen Reynolds
Penzance Town Mayor
Councillor – Heamoor & Gulval Ward
Penzance Council

12 December 2024

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your email of 1 November regarding devolution for Cornwall.

I recognise Cornwall's position in being the first rural area to secure an early devolution deal in 2015 and its distinctive culture and heritage, not least as the only place in England with its own language recognised by the European Framework Convention. As you know, we were pleased to recently confirm that we are minded to proceed with the non-mayoral devolution agreement with Cornwall, subject to statutory tests being met. We believe this agreement is an important step for Cornwall to see early benefits from devolution in the short term, allowing us the time needed to work together to assess all options as we unlock deeper devolution across England.

This Government believes that the benefits of devolution are best achieved through the establishment of combined authorities or combined county authorities over sensible economic geographies and supported by a mayor. We want every part of England to take its place on the Council of Nations and Regions, with strong and effective partnerships in place with councils and other partners to deliver the missions we have set out to transform the country.

I know and admire the passion that partners across Cornwall share for tackling housing shortfall, boosting tourism and seizing opportunities of Net Zero, among other issues. I look forward to working with you to address these, as well as proposals for Cornwall to unlock further devolution.

Thank you again for writing to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP

Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution