

Cllr Tim Bearder
Leader
Oxfordshire County Council

Executive support@southandvale.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422422
Textphone: 18001 01235 422422

Via email:
Tim.Bearder@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Abbey House,
Abbey Close,
Abingdon,
Oxon,
OX14 3JE

3 August 2026

Dear Tim,

We are writing to you as the Leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils following the Government's Statement from the Cabinet on Friday 31 July, regarding devolved government and new powers for local areas.

We are keen to ensure that Oxfordshire County Council (as the upper tier authority) seeks to maximise the opportunities regarding a potential Mayoral Strategic Authority for the benefit of our residents and businesses.

In particular we would like to seek an early meeting between all Oxfordshire authorities and Berkshire authorities (in line with the original Expression of Interest for an MSA submitted in December 2025) to take forward this opportunity for establishment of an MSA for Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Whilst we are aware that to date Buckinghamshire has not engaged in these discussions, as Leaders we have always been open to including them in the discussions for the establishment of a Thames Valley MSA, seeing them as a natural fit for the region. We would welcome your efforts, and that of your senior responsible officer, to engage with Buckinghamshire and to include them in an early meeting.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers
Leader
South Oxfordshire District Council



Cllr Bethia Thomas
Leader
Vale of White Horse District Council