

**Councillor John Mounsey**  
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**Management Committee**  
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**18<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Dear John**

**Sheffield City Region Proposed Devolution Deal**

Firstly I would like to place on record my thanks to you and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for holding a highly productive meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 on the scrutiny of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) proposed Devolution Deal.

The recommendations and comments you have supplied within your correspondence dated the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 echo the views of me and my Cabinet. We are extremely passionate to ensure Doncaster maximises the significant investment opportunities presented from the devolution deal, in particular ensuring:

- An integrated 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transport Network with greater intra and intercity region connectivity.
- A world leading area for innovation, advanced manufacturing and business growth.
- More people learning, earning in apprenticeships and higher skilled employment.
- Better use of publicly owned assets and increased planning capacity and powers to double our housing delivery and increase commercial development.
- A stable, long term financial settlement that puts the SCR in control of its own destiny.

I acknowledge your comments and concerns around the accountability and autonomy of a potential SCR elected Mayor, and I have been very clear in my representations to the SCR that the appointment of a SCR/Combined Authority (CA) Mayor must receive powers from Whitehall rather than aggregate powers from Local Areas.

The deal is clear in that the SCR Mayor will chair the SCR CA and will lead a SCR Cabinet. The members of the SCR CA will serve as the SCR Mayor's Cabinet and will act as a supporting and advisory function to the SCR Mayor and CA.

Even where powers reside with the SCR Mayor, the SCR Cabinet will be able to exercise a veto over SCR Mayoral strategies and funding plans, if two-thirds of the members agree to do so. On planning arrangements, unanimous approval from CA members will need to be secured.

In addition, on proposals for decisions by the CA, the SCR Mayor will have one vote, as with other voting members of the CA.

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, if passed, will provide a greater importance to the role of the Scrutiny Committee. The SCR Scrutiny Committee will be not only able to scrutinise Mayoral and CA decision making, but also have the ability to scrutinise Government Departments, which is an essential part of our ask, and something I have welcomed in the drafting of the Bill.

On a final note, it is important to state that the devolution agreement is part of a longer more methodical process, and should not be considered the end point of devolution. Your continued support and scrutiny of future asks and proposals is therefore welcomed.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ros'.

**Ros Jones**  
**Mayor of Doncaster**