

Maidstone Borough Council

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Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

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Rt Hon Steve Reed MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

Alison McGovern MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
Homelessness*

2 Marsham Street
London. SW1P 4DF

28 November 2025

Dear Secretary of State and Minister of State,

Maidstone Borough Council is supporting the attached three unitary option for Local Government Reorganisation across Kent and Medway.

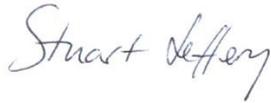
To start with, I want to be clear and upfront: we support LGR as a route to devolution and we expect an equally strong commitment from Government to the delivery of devolution for Kent and Medway and for this to be implemented contemporaneously with our new unitary councils. What I would prefer for Kent is for the London model for devolution, i.e. with a mayor and an assembly elected by proportional representation.

Our '3a' option provides clear benefits over the other models you will have received.

1. The alignment of geography with other public sector bodies is explicit and clear. Alignment with the Health and Care Partnerships is particularly important as 60%+ of the budget will be for social care and our proposal will drive co-ordination, collaboration, integration and efficiency benefitting the public and the public purse.
2. Our model provides the shortest payback period of the compliant models that you will receive. The benefit to the public and the Treasury is clear.
3. The model provides resilience in east Kent, placing the ports in one unitary ensures consistency of approach and support for our borders.
4. Our model balances democratic need and representation with financial resilience.
5. Unlike 1a, our model is compliant with your requirements for LGR and it provides a clear route for devolution.

We have adopted the strapline "Big Enough to Deliver. Local Enough to Care" for good reason. The 3a model is the only model that can survive into the long term while still providing a good level of local democracy and that provides a strong foundational structure for devolution that Kent must have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Jeffery".

Cllr Stuart Jeffery
Leader of Maidstone Borough Council

stuartjeffery@maidstone.gov.uk