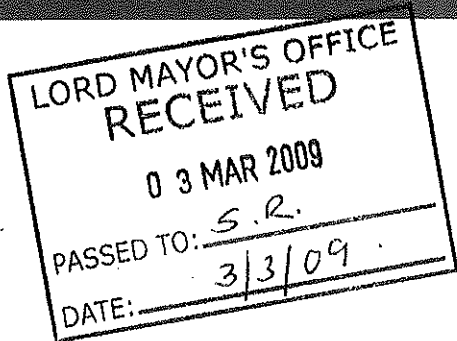


CORE CITIES

DRIVING REGIONAL GROWTH



Core Cities Group
c/o The Tenants Services Authority
4th Floor
One Piccadilly Gardens
Manchester
M1 1RG

24th February 2009

The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor, Councillor Tom Hartlev
Lord Mayor's Office
Clarendon Buildings
15 Clarendon Road
Clarendon Dock
Belfast
BT1 3BG

Dear Lord Mayor

We are writing to you as the Leaders of the Core Cities Group, following a decision between our eight cities, to invite your city to participate in forming an alliance of the United Kingdom's major regional capitals. In addition to your city, we are also writing to Cardiff, Edinburgh and Glasgow to invite them to participate, and will be renewing our collective relationship with London.

This is an important juncture for our major cities and there is much at stake. There is a greater understanding across the public and private sector of our role in driving economic recovery and growth, social cohesion and sustainability and several major policy initiatives, particularly the Sub National Review in England, have explicitly acknowledged this. Yet cities still do not have access to all the tools they need to reach their potential and devolution has been modest across the piece.

Although our circumstances are not the same across the UK, we feel that there are important similarities between our great cities and the essential role they play, and that - in a limited number of areas - there will be merit in speaking with one voice to government and others on common issues.

The Core Cities Group will continue with its current membership and we see this alliance as developing informally, based on dealing with fundamentally shared priorities, rather than necessarily as a network group. The Core Cities central unit is small and as with our other arrangements; we see the alliance as being light on bureaucracy and strong on shared messages where these are identified.



Birmingham Bristol Leeds Liverpool Manchester Newcastle Nottingham Sheffield

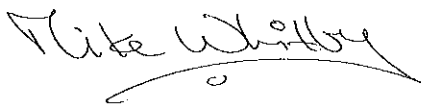
Central Unit, c/o The Housing Corporation, 4th Floor, One Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester M1 1RG
T: 0161 242 5951 E: r.muscat@corecities.com W: www.corecities.com

Our Director has already held initial discussions with representatives from each of the alliance cities and, if you are happy to proceed, as a next step we will progress working arrangements and communications.

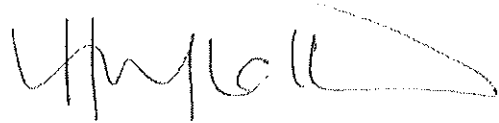
We would ask that any announcements or media communications are agreed through these discussions before being made in a coordinated way.

I do hope that our proposal meets with your approval and we look forward to working with you, your city and colleagues in the very near future.

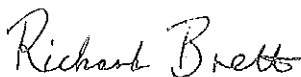
Yours sincerely,



Councillor Mike Whitby
Leader, Birmingham City Council



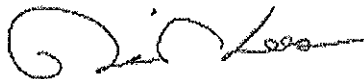
Councillor Helen Holland
Leader, Bristol City Council



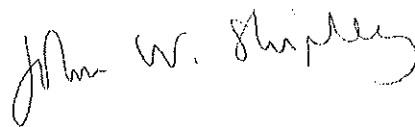
Councillor Richard Brett
Leader, Leeds City Council




Councillor Warren Bradley
Leader, Liverpool City Council



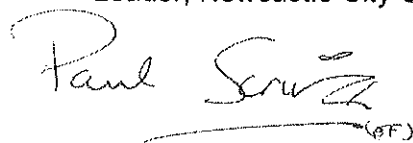
Councillor Sir Richard Leese
Leader, Manchester City Council



Councillor John Shipley
Leader, Newcastle City Council



Councillor Jon Collins
Leader, Nottingham City Council



Councillor Paul Scriven
Leader, Sheffield City Council

