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Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn,
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17 April 2019

Dear Councillor Siencyn,

North Wales Growth Deal

As you are aware, securing a Growth Deal for North Wales is a key priority for the UK Government. I am therefore delighted, following my appointment as UK Government Minister for Wales, I will be the UK Minister responsible for the negotiations as we work towards a Heads of Terms agreement.

The UK Government is committed to the North Wales Growth Deal. I have noted the content of your letter to my predecessor. July 2019 is an ambitious timeframe, and it will be vital all parties work together to get the deal over the line and rapidly conclude a Heads of Terms Agreement. I am keen to continue the collaborative approach which has developed and to build on this for the benefit of the region.

For the Growth Deal to be successful, the input of the private sector will be essential. Growth Deal funding should be able to leverage significant levels of private sector co-investment where appropriate. It will be vital both governments can have suitable assurances the private sector investment outlined in the latest outline business cases and implementation plan is forthcoming. This must be combined with ensuring appropriate governance arrangements are in place for the North Wales Business Delivery Board to support and challenge the work of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. My office, in conjunction with the Welsh Government, are currently assessing your proposals against these requirements.

I agree a dual track approach to a Heads of Terms agreement is a sensible way forward for the deal. I have tasked my officials to examine your proposals and their fit with wider UK Government policy towards City and Growth Deals across Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This is in order to develop a bespoke solution which works for all parties involved in the North Wales Growth Deal.

I am intending to be in North Wales on 29th April to meet you in person and to discuss these points in further detail. My office will contact you in due course to finalise these arrangements.

With my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Foster', followed by a period.

Kevin Foster MP/AS
UK Government Minister for Wales
Gweinidog Llywodraeth y DU dros Gymru