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**Chair of Economic Development
Committee**
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

**Councillor Jon Collins
Leader, Nottingham City Council
Loxley House
Station Street
Nottingham
NG2 3NG**

Dear John

**RE: DERBY – NOTTINGHAM METROPOLITAN STRATEGY 2030
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Nottinghamshire County Council's Economic Development Committee considered the draft Derby – Nottingham Metropolitan Strategy 2030 (henceforth the Metro Strategy) at its meeting on 6th September and the discussion on the proposed strategy has shaped this formal response to your consultation exercise. As you are aware, this Council operates a committee system of governance and the Economic Development Committee is the appropriate place for this type of issue to be considered.

Firstly, I recognise that as part of the devolution proposals that we worked up last year, reference was made to the distinct geographies of the area, including the predominantly urban areas around the two cities. The proposed Metro Strategy clearly articulates how some of the devolution proposals could be taken forward at a different scale and the County Council welcomes the energy and commitment that the two cities have shown in pursuing this work.

However, Members of the County Council's Economic Development Committee raised some concerns about the way in which the strategy had been developed and felt that the County Council (and the relevant borough and district councils) could have been more actively engaged in its development. Members took the view that an opportunity had been missed to gain appropriate political understanding and support, through a more extensive consultation. They also questioned the limited reference to the County Council and its borough and district council partners in the strategy, particularly given that many of the ambitions and actions would require the support of local authorities in the county areas.

The lack of clarity about the geographical scope of the Metro Strategy was also raised as a concern and Members felt that this ought to be rectified in the final drafting to avoid confusion.

Members highlighted the fact that the draft strategy lacks detail on how the ambitions and actions will be taken forward and governed. From this Council's perspective, it is important that the forward plan and governance reflects both our statutory responsibilities and our strategic interests.

In terms of the HS2 East Midlands Hub at Toton, the County Council's view is that the current governance and working arrangements around this are fit-for-purpose and sustainable into the future. Going forward, it is important to be clear about the primacy of these existing HS2 governance arrangements as far as the Metro Strategy is concerned.

I am keen that the County Council engages with and contributes to the Metro Strategy. At the same time, I recognise that this must be accompanied with the complimentary work that we are now undertaking with D2N2 partners on delivering growth in rural and market towns and in our former industrial areas.

I hope this is helpful feedback. I know from discussions with Alan Rhodes, the Leader of the Council, that he expects there to be further consideration of the Metro Strategy at future meetings of the Economic Prosperity Committee and I look forward to keeping up to date via Alan.

I have also sent a copy of this letter to Councillor Ranjit Banwait; Leader of Derby City Council.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Diana Meale
Chair of Economic Development Committee
Member for Mansfield West Division