

Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

8th October 2019

The Rt Honourable Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

As elected representatives in the North of England, we write to ask for your support for the Northern Forest, an initiative from the Woodland Trust and its community forest partners in the region.

The Northern Forest will see 50 million trees planted over the next 25 years across the North, including the core area of the Northern Powerhouse with its actively expanding industry, transport and housing. While the Northern Forest is progressing well, including more than 600,000 trees already in the ground, it needs your support.

Woodland cover in our Northern counties is only 7.6%, far lower than England's average (currently 10%). At the same time 650,000 new homes are planned, with £75 billion of infrastructure already in the pipeline. While this progress is most welcome, it is vital that the right balance is reached between development and the environment, not least for the 13 million people who live here and the people we are hoping to attract. This is where the Northern Forest comes in.

The Northern Forest offers a multitude of benefits to people and nature alike. From reducing the risk of flooding, to locking up millions of tonnes of carbon to ameliorating the impact of climate change, to providing shade and the clean air we need in our towns and cities, trees offer effective solutions. Who doesn't like planting trees?

We believe the Northern Forest will help create happier and healthier communities, economic benefits from wood fuel and timber, and provide abundant opportunities for recreation, tourism and leisure. Our nation's wildlife population will dramatically benefit too, particularly from safe green corridors and more abundant and better-connected habitats. This project will be a major step in ensuring your government leaves the environment in a better state than it was found.

As you develop your plans for our nation's environment and government's economic investment in the North, we ask you to

- **Commit to supporting the delivery of the Northern Forest**
- **Look at opportunities to enable its delivery, including supporting the development of green investment models, government grants, developer levies and contributions and support from offsetting planned government infrastructure projects**
- **Visit the region and plant a tree as part of the project**

It is expected that the Northern Forest will generate around £2.5 billion worth of social, economic and environmental benefits – at least a five-fold return on investment. We would like for you to come and see the project for yourself, to plant a tree and hear more from the Woodland Trust and local community forests that are spearheading the initiative.

The Northern Forest is an initiative of international significance and is just the sort of ambitious project our country, and especially the North, needs now. We trust you agree.

Yours sincerely

Dan Jarvis MBE
MP for Barnsley Central
Mayor of Sheffield City Region

Debbie Abrahams
MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth

Mike Amesbury
MP for Weaber Vale

David Baines
Leader of the Council for St. Helens

Rt Hon Sir Kevin Barron
MP for Rother Valley

Hilary Benn
MP for Leeds Central

Luciana Berger
MP for Liverpool Wavertree

Clive Betts
MP for Sheffield South East

Judith Blake CBE
Leader of the Council for Leeds

Paul Blomfield
MP for Sheffield Central

Russ Bowden
Leader of the Council for Warrington

Peter Box CBE
Leader of the Council for Wakefield

Tracy Brabin
MP for Batley and Spen

Sir Graham Brady
MP for Altrincham and Sale West

Stephen Brady
Leader of the Council for Hull

Allen Brett
Leader of the Council for Rochdale

Matthew Brown
Leader of the Council for Preston City

Richard Burgon
MP for Leeds East

Rt Hon Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester

Richard Burton
Leader of the Council for East Riding of Yorkshire

Sarah Champion
MP for Rotherham

Ann Coffey
MP for Stockport

Julie Cooper
MP for Burnley

Richard Cooper
Leader of the Council for Harrogate

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper
MP for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford

Rosie Cooper
MP for West Lancashire

Sam Corcoran
Leader of the Council for Cheshire East

Sir David Crausby
MP for Bolton North East

Mary Creagh
MP for Wakefield

Judith Cummins
MP for Bradford South

Nic Dakin
MP for Scunthorpe

Philip Davies
MP for Shipley

Julie Dore
Leader of the Council for Sheffield

Geoff Driver CBE
Leader of the Council for Lancashire

Angela Eagle
MP for Wallasey

Bill Esterson
MP for Sefton Central

Nigel Evans
MP for Ribble Valley

Rt Hon Frank Field
MP for Birkenhead

Sean Fielding
Leader of the Council for Oldham

Rt Hon Caroline Flint
MP for Don Valley

Paul Foster
Leader of the Council for South Ribble

Yvonne Fovargue
MP for Makerfield

Steve Fritchley
Leader of the Council for Bolsover

James Frith
MP for Bury North

Gill Furniss
MP for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough

Ruth George
MP for High Peak

Tricia Gilby
Leader of the Council for Chesterfield

Louise Gittins
Leader of the Council for Cheshire West & Chester

Simon Greaves
Leader of the Council for Bassetlaw

Kate Green OBE
MP for Stretford and Urmston

Margaret Greenwood
MP for Wirral West

John Grogan
MP for Keighley

Andrew Gwynne
MP for Denton and Reddish

Louise Haigh
MP for Sheffield Heeley

Emma Hardy
MP for Kingston upon Hull West & Hessle

Rt Hon John Healey
MP for Wentworth and Dearne

Susan Hinchcliffe
Leader of the Council for Bradford

Kate Hollern
MP for Blackburn

Kevin Hollinrake
MP for Thirsk and Malton

Sir Steve Houghton CBE
Leader of the Council for Barnsley

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth
MP for Knowsley

Imran Hussain
MP for Bradford East

Mohammed Iqbal
Leader of the Council for Pendle

Andrea Jenkyns
MP for Morley and Outwood

Diana Johnson
MP for Kingston upon Hull North

David Jones
Leader of the Council for Bury

Graham Jones
MP for Hyndburn

Ros Jones
Mayor of Doncaster

Barbara Keeley
MP for Worsley and Eccles South

Mohammed Khan
Leader of the Council for Blackburn with Darwen

Rt Hon Sir Greg Knight
MP for East Yorkshire

Sir Richard Leese CBE
Leader of the Council for Manchester

Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh
MP for Gainsborough

Carl Les
Leader of the Council for North Yorkshire

Holly Lynch
MP for Halifax

Justin Madders
MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston

Ian Maher
Leader of the Council for Sefton

Gordon Marsden
MP for Blackpool South

Rachael Maskell
MP for York Central

Chris Matheson
MP for City of Chester

Conor McGinn
MP for St Helens North

Anthony McKeown
Leader of the Council for High Peak

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin
MP for Derbyshire Dales

Jim McMahan OBE
MP for Oldham West and Royton

Giles McNeil
Leader of the Council for West Lindsey

Rt Hon Ed Miliband
MP for Doncaster North

David Molyneux
Leader of the Council for Wigan

Graham Morgan
Leader of the Council for Knowsley

Lisa Nandy
MP for Wigan

Melanie Onn
MP for Great Grimsby

Shabir Pandor
Leader of the Council for Kirklees

Miles Parkinson OBE
Leader of the Council for Hyndburn

Stephanie Peacock
MP for Barnsley East

Jo Platt
MP for Leigh

Rob Polhill
Leader of the Council for Halton

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MP for Manchester Central

Garry Purdy
**Leader of the Council for
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MP for Bolton South East

Faisal Rashid
MP for Warrington South

Angela Rayner
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Leader of the Council for Rotherham

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MP for Leeds West

Jonathan Reynolds
MP for Stalybridge and Hyde

Marie Rimmer CBE
MP for St Helens South and Whiston

Steve Rotheram
Mayor of Liverpool City Region

Naz Shah
MP for Bradford West

Barry Sheerman
MP for Huddersfield

Rt Hon Alec Shelbrooke
MP for Elmet and Rothwell

Paula Sherriff
MP for Dewsbury

Dennis Skinner
MP for Bolsover

Laura Smith
MP for Crewe and Nantwich

Angela Smith
MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge

Alex Sobel
MP for Leeds North West

Graham Stringer
MP for Blackley and Broughton

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**Leader of the Council for North East
Derbyshire**

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MP for Kingston upon Hull East

Derek Twigg
MP for Halton

Stephen Twigg
MP for Liverpool West Derby

Martin Vickers
MP for Cleethorpes

Thelma Walker
MP for Colne Valley

Elise Wilson
Leader of the Council for Stockport

Rt Hon Dame Rosie Winterton
MP for Doncaster Central

William Wragg
MP for Hazel Grove