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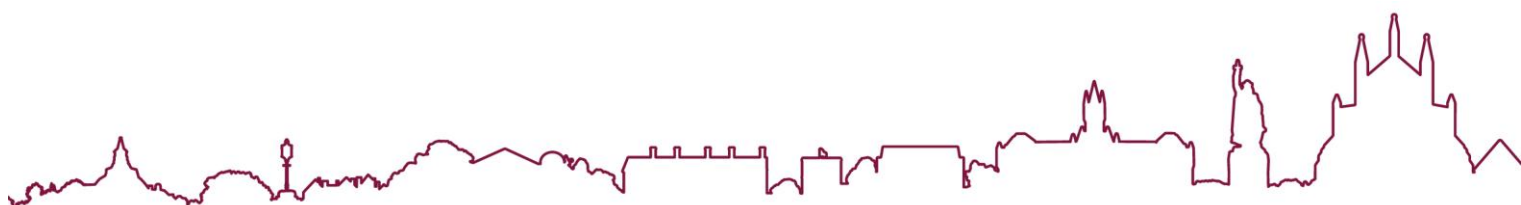
Dear Joanne and Beatrice,

Following my previous letters, Winchester City Council officers met with Shannon Franklin and Sahra Hersi, on 6th July to discuss the issues raised. I subsequently shared the discussion with my peers across the authorities that will form the new Mid Hampshire unitary authority. We agreed that there would be value in ensuring the range of views and different plan-making positions across the area were represented.

East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester have therefore contributed collaboratively to the attached documents requested by Shannon. We hope these provide a helpful overview of our respective positions.

We understand that Test Valley met with Sara Lewis and New Forest met with Sara Lewis and Ed Francis and East Hampshire with Shannon Franklin and Sahra Hersi. Given the different discussions taking place, we would welcome a meeting involving the relevant Planning Officers at MHCLG, alongside representatives from the four authorities. We could also extend the invite to Colleagues in the new South West and South East unitary authorities. This would help ensure that we have a shared understanding of the current position, the available options and the relevant transitional arrangements.

Hampshire is one of the earlier areas progressing through local government reorganisation, with boundary changes forming part of the creation of Mid Hampshire and three other unitary authorities. We are keen to play a constructive and supportive role in helping to shape how new geographies can prepare robust local plans through this period of transition.



The authorities that will form Mid Hampshire are currently at different stages of their plan-making journeys. Some have already begun the new 30-month process, others are preparing to move into it, while some remain within the legacy system. Despite these different starting points, we share a clear ambition: to do the right thing for our communities, prepare robust local plans and support the new unitary authority to succeed.

We recognise the value of beginning conversations ahead of April 2028. Early collaboration, where appropriate, could help authorities explore opportunities to share evidence, strengthen working relationships and support the new unitary authority as it develops its future approach to plan-making.

We hope the attached documents are helpful and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the position and next steps with you.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Headon
Strategic Director

CC Graham Smith Test Valley

Tracy Coleman New Forest

Simon Ellie East Hampshire

