



Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Executive's Office

Mr Nick Rushton
Leader
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Leicester Road
Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

Please ask for: John Boyce
Email: John.Boyce@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Our Ref: JB/JS

11 February 2019

Dear Nick

I thought it would be appropriate to write to you and give you the outcome of the consultation we undertook with residents regarding your unitary proposals. 89% of our residents firmly rejected your proposals for a single authority and 87% for a two-tier solution. This is reflected across the whole of the borough.

With regards to your proposal, I find it most odd and insulting that you failed to consult appropriately with this authority and, indeed, all the districts relating to it. We, as a district, are the employers of more than 160 staff. Your proposals affect our staff, yet you have not chosen to formally consult with us. This is a most distressing situation for our staff and one which you should rectify immediately.

The underlying need you have identified is to save money. As the Secretary of State has already indicated, he does not see reorganisation as a means of resolving the funding crisis. Therefore, the County should be looking for other means of resolving their long-term financial situation and not look to the districts for savings and income generation.

Any unitary outcome under your current proposal would inevitably lead to a significant reduction in services and charging for others.

At the moment, our borough has a weekly recycling and refuse collection; I would imagine your proposals would lead to this being reduced to 2 or 3 weeks. We currently do not charge for shoppers car parking and would imagine you would bring in a charge across the whole county for this. Our other services would also suffer a reduction in service and, more importantly, a reduction in our residents being able to have an influence.

The current proposal talks about only the County being involved, this is completely flawed. The City would almost certainly expect to expand its boundaries and any thoughts that they would maintain the current status quo is naïve. My residents have on many occasions indicated their reluctance to see this happening.

Your consultation is in my mind very badly flawed owing to the mixed messages my residents have received. The Secretary of State and our local MPs have indicated their opposition to the proposal whilst the County continues with it.



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Indeed, all of us were urged to stop spending on either proposal or any response. Residents clearly see this situation and it reduces their motivation to get involved.

It is my view that your proposals and the fact that you are continuing to pursue them is completely misguided and I believe the outcome of your endeavours will be so flawed as to be worthless.

Overall I believe you should remove this proposal completely and await clear and precise guidance from central government as to how it sees the future of local government in our area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Boyce', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Boyce
Leader

cc: Members, OWBC
Staff, OWBC
Cllr Terry Richardson, Blaby DC
Cllr Jonathan Morgan, Charnwood BC
Cllr Neil Bannister, Harborough DC
Cllr Mike Hall, Hinckley & Bosworth BC
Cllr Joe Orson, Melton BC
Cllr Richard Blunt, NW Leicestershire
Alberto Costa MP
Neil O'Brien MP
Bev Smith, CEO, NW Leicestershire
Bill Cullen, CEO, Hinckley & Bosworth BC
Edd de Coverley, CEO, Melton BC
Geoff Parker, CEO, Charnwood BC
Jane Toman, CEO, Blaby DC
Norman Proudfoot/Bev Jolly, Harborough DC
Leicester Mercury
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