



website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Leading Overview and Scrutiny Members
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North Wiltshire District Council
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2 October 2007

Dear District Leading Overview and Scrutiny Member(s)

Re: New Wiltshire Council Transitional Governance – Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements

You will know that the Department for Communities and Local Government are interested to hear from us on “what appropriate scrutiny arrangements are required” for the transitional governance phase of creating One Council for Wiltshire. The Department required a response by the 28 September. Early outline proposals were reported to the County Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 6 September and included in a report to the extraordinary full Council on 21 September at which district council members were present. An informal discussion also took place with your scrutiny officers on 10 September.

I am sorry that this is the first real opportunity we have had to explore with you at member level what these arrangements might look like, but I hope you can appreciate the initial tight timescale that was imposed on us. Over this next period it would be really useful to receive your views on how these arrangements might be developed, and successfully implemented.

In order to move us forward we worked with the County’s Scrutiny Manager to provide a more detailed paper on the outline arrangements for consultation with you. We are very keen to discuss with you these proposals and to receive any ideas that you might have. Ultimately if we can reach agreement on a way forward then it can only be beneficial in terms of providing an effective vehicle for non-executive members from all 5 councils wanting to influence the way the new council will look and feel. A “pooling” of member capacity and officer resource from the existing councils can only enhance this opportunity.

We plan to take this paper and any views received to the next meeting of our Management Committee on 1 November. I would therefore like to extend an invitation to you to attend

Department of Resources, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

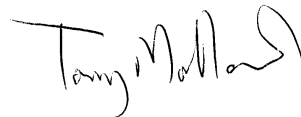
and speak at this meeting. In the meantime we would be happy to meet with you to discuss these proposals if you would find this helpful. I understand that our scrutiny officers are meeting on 19 October which also provides an opportunity for dialogue and sharing of ideas.

We are aware of the pending outcome of judicial review and the need for legislation prior to fully implementing the arrangements. However the Department is encouraging early dialogue to take place between existing councils in order to prepare the ground. It is with this in mind that we feel the time is right to begin to share ideas in the non-executive arena – something which has already started between leaders and chief executives. However we feel it important to emphasise that these proposals are about the transitional governance arrangements only, and that what the actual overview and scrutiny function might look like in the new council is best left as a secondary phase to our work.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Jeff Osborn in black ink.

Jeff Osborn
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Tony Molland in black ink.

Tony Molland
Vice-Chairman

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee