



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Richard Harrington
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Dear Richard

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

I am writing to let you know that the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, has today announced that he is minded to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, the locally-led proposal for restructuring local government in Buckinghamshire, which was submitted to him in September 2016 and which involves replacing the existing five councils with a new single unitary council for the whole of the current county area. He has also announced that accordingly he is not minded to proceed with the proposal to replace the existing Buckinghamshire councils with two unitary councils. Please find enclosed a copy of the Written Ministerial Statement which the Secretary of State made today.

As you can see from that statement, the Secretary of State has carefully considered the proposals and the representations made to him. Based on all the information and material currently available to him, he has reached an initial view that the proposal to create a single unitary council, if implemented, is likely to improve the area's local government, that it commands a good deal of local support, and that the area of the proposed council is a credible geography.

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As you will also see, there is now a period until 25 May 2018 during which those interested may make representations to the Secretary of State. Moreover, during this period the Secretary of State has said that further steps should be taken to secure local consent, and he hopes that this announcement will facilitate the necessary discussions to conclude this.

The Secretary of State looks forward to seeing the Buckinghamshire councils continue to work in partnership both to provide a solid basis on which further steps can be taken to build consent and to deliver, including in partnership with neighbouring authorities, the new homes and employment opportunities needed to realise the huge economic potential of the wider area.

Once the period for representations has ended the Secretary of State will carefully consider all the material and representations available to him and reach a final decision as to how to proceed.

The Secretary of State has written to all Buckinghamshire MPs, the five council leaders, the Chairs of the South East Midlands and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEPs and HM Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



P ROWSELL