
Councillor Peter Goldsworthy

Executive Leader and Member for Euxton South

Direct Dial: (01257) 515111
Your Ref:
My Ref: DH/pl
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Date: 23 January 2007

Town Hall
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1DP

Ruth Kelly, MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Dear Ruth

Improving Two-Tier Working in Lancashire

We are writing to you as Leaders in Lancashire to show our commitment to the challenge you have set out to Councils in two-tier areas to improve the delivery of seamless services to local people.

We have attached a work in progress document, which sets out our long term aspirations and vision and our initial thoughts on how we may take this forward.

We recognise we have some way to go but we are confident that we can develop a modern two-tier system which:

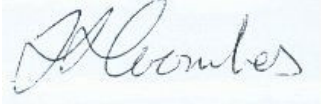
- Provides high quality, locally responsive, seamless services, focussed on local communities, neighbourhoods and service users.
- Provides a single pathway to services with common “front offices” and optimum back office integration
- Combines the benefits of significant capacity to deliver value for money services that people want and deserve and maximises opportunities for economies of scale and on-going efficiency gains including working with the private and third sectors.
- Provides transparent decision making responsive to the views of customers and the local community
- Demonstrates strong democratic accountability capable of ensuring collaboration and joined-up service delivery at the local level
- Responds strategically to the key varying needs of Lancashire and focuses resources accordingly.
- Has a strong collaborative resource base that has the size and capacity to innovate, plan, allocate resources and broker partnerships to support the work of the county, districts and others to achieve continuous service improvement.
- Provides the commanding voice for Lancashire and “punches above its weight” in the North West, at Westminster, in Europe and globally.
- Demonstrates strong and supportive relationships, enhanced through a track record of greater trust.

We look forward in the future to working together in Lancashire and with you to develop these thoughts further.

Yours sincerely



Leader
Chorley Borough Council



Leader
Fylde Borough Council



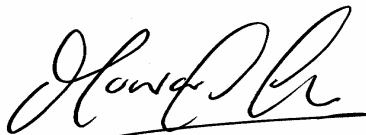
Leader
Lancashire County Council



Leader
Ribble Valley Borough Council



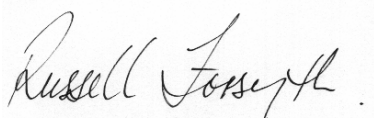
Leader
Rossendale Borough Council



Leader
South Ribble Borough Council



Leader
West Lancashire District Council



Leader
Wyre Borough Council

Copy to: Keith Barnes, GONW
Neil Cumberlidge, GONW