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8 February 2017

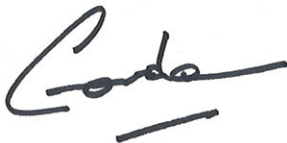
Dear Matt

I write as Chairman of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to offer my support to the six councils in Dorset who have committed to a Dorset Local Government re-organisation submission.

In particular the private sector LEP Board Members, along with the majority of the businesses I have engaged, are clear that option 2B, a medium Conurbation and a medium Dorset, will create the best future for residents and the business community going forward.

I have been very impressed with both the financial and business case that I have seen and firmly believe that this will assist Dorset in increasing productivity and enabling a more strategic approach to economic growth.

Yours sincerely



Gordon Page CBE DL
Chair of the Dorset LEP Board

WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Councillor Robert Gould
Leader of the Council
Dorset County Council

2nd February 2017

By e-mail

Dear Robert

Reorganisation of Local Government in Dorset

We understand that you will be meeting with Council Leaders on 7th February 2017 to discuss the outcome of the various recent Council meetings held across Dorset. We believe your objective is the submission of appropriate plans to the Secretary of State drawn up by the six Councils who see this proposed reorganisation as an opportunity and are in favour of moving ahead.

We are writing to you on behalf of our 3,000 tax paying members because we unequivocally believe that the majority decision to “do nothing” taken by Christchurch Council is not in the best interest of those taxpayers.

First, the decision isolates Christchurch from its most important and influential neighbours, Bournemouth and Poole. That decision makes no sense for a Council as small as Christchurch and we see it as strategically inept.

Second, it flies in the face of known Central Government preferences to deal with a small number of reasonably large Unitary Authorities. The proposed solution of *Bournemouth-Christchurch-Poole* as one such unitary and *East Dorset-North Dorset-West Dorset-Weymouth-Portland-Purbeck* as the other meets Central Government criteria. In this respect the decision by Christchurch Council puzzles us deeply.

Third, it ignores the projected budget deficits that exist across the Councils of Dorset caused predominantly by deliberate Government action designed to force this type of reorganisation. In that respect the Christchurch Council decision strikes us as irresponsible,

Fourth, the Christchurch Council decision is contrary to public opinion as demonstrated in the Dorset-wide independent survey.

Fifth, it is not in tune with business opinion and is thus not conducive to encouraging the inward investment to the area that will be so important in the years ahead.

For these reasons, we urge you and the Leaders of Bournemouth, Poole, North Dorset, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland (who together account for more than 75% of Dorset's population) to act in the best interest of our tax payers and indeed all Dorset's tax payers

and press ahead with a submission to the Secretary of State of the two-unitary plan that received such widespread public and business backing.

Please feel free to share this note with others. We have sent a copy to Councillor Ray Nottage and to David McIntosh.

With best personal wishes

Jim Biggin

Chairman



Debbie Simpson QPM
Chief Constable

DORSET POLICE
FORCE HEADQUARTERS
WINFRITH
DORCHESTER DT2 8DZ

Martyn Underhill
Police & Crime Commissioner

DORSET POLICE
FORCE HEADQUARTERS
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Date 6 February 2017

Mrs D Ward
Chief Executive
Dorset County Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
DT1 1XJ

Reshaping Dorset's Councils: Local Government Re-Organisation

Dear Debbie,

As Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable we have been watching the county's local authority re-organisation debate with interest over the past few months.

You will be aware that we are particularly interested in the opportunities that re-organisation could afford the county's safeguarding arrangements. Quite simply, with less money available to the public sector there is a need for all of us to work ever closer together so that we can keep Dorset and its residents safe. Multiple structures and organisations lead to greater complexity, which increases the risk of vulnerable people slipping through the cracks and, of course, costs more money to run.

Therefore, we welcome the more streamlined proposals that have been put forward which will aid in the provision of better integrated services. Naturally, from a safeguarding and policing perspective we would prefer a single unitary solution, but these proposals are nevertheless a step in the right direction.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Simpson
Chief Constable

Martyn Underhill
Police & Crime Commissioner

Chief Constable Debbie Simpson QPM

www.dorset.police.uk

Clear Majority of Dorset MPs Support Council Reform

Following the meeting of Dorset's council leaders (15th December 2016), six of the County's MPs have issued the following statement:

'As MPs representing six of the eight Dorset constituencies, we are writing in support of the recommendations made by the leaders of our County, Unitary and District councils for reform of Local Government in Dorset.

We are convinced that Local Government in Dorset will be able to provide the crucial public services on which our constituents depend in the 2020s only if significant savings can be made in the administrative overhead before 2020. We believe that the recommendations put forward by the leaders constitute a realistic and sensible way of achieving those savings.

We therefore urge councillors across Dorset to follow the lead of their leaders. We are confident that, if they do so, the Secretary of State will accept the proposals -- offering a clear way forward.'

Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP (West Dorset), Conor Burns MP (Bournemouth West), Tobias Ellwood MP (Bournemouth East), Simon Hoare MP (North Dorset), Robert Syms MP (Poole) and Michael Tomlinson MP (Mid Dorset & North Poole).

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For further information, please contact Simon Hoare MP on 020 7219 5697 or 07768 123307