

Cllr Jeff Brooks  
via email:  
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**Councillor David Rouane  
Councillor Bethia Thomas**

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21 February 2025

Dear Jeff,

We understand from conversations in Oxfordshire, that whilst not setting out a model or standard format, as part of developing proposals for Local Government Reorganisation MHCLG have indicated they would like to understand the method or model of engagement between councils where they are jointly seeking to support reorganisation across their geographies. Oxfordshire has established structures for this, but we are writing to suggest that it would help to have more formal - but non-decision making - arrangements in place between our three councils. We are relaxed that between them Joseph and Mark can put in place suitable arrangements at the officer level and are aware that they have each already identified lead officers.

We would therefore like to suggest that we formalise a regular meeting, supported by officers, where each of our three Councils' Leaders, and statutory Deputy Leaders come together to consider any requests for a steer from officers, or receive any informal updates, prior to engaging with our respective governance processes. We would be happy to suggest that this meeting is chaired by yourself, assuming that it will be possible for West Berkshire to submit an interim proposal that covers our combined geography. If MHCLG were to advise that we would have to submit the proposal on our collective behalf, we would suggest a rotating chair.

We would be happy to provide a 'light touch' draft MoU around this proposal for you and Joseph to consider, if you are agreeable in principle.

Kind regards,



Councillor David Rouane  
Leader  
South Oxfordshire District Council



Councillor Bethia Thomas  
Leader  
Vale of White Horse District Council

cc: Mark Stone  
Joseph Holmes