

Cllr Liz Leffman  
Leader  
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Dear Liz,

### **Potential MSA Geography**

Firstly, may I congratulate you on your success at the recent county elections – I look forward to working with you over the next year.

As you know I have been concerned about the potential geographies that have been suggested for an MSA across our region; I am particularly concerned about the potential inclusion of Swindon, for the reasons I have outlined previously.

Recently it has come to my attention that Swindon has been included on the invitation list you issued for the upcoming MSA Summit scheduled for June 12th. This invitation seems to contradict what I thought was your view that Swindon has no part to play in discussions of this sort, and I believe you have indicated that it was sent out in error. If this is the case, I would like to see written confirmation that their invitation has indeed been retracted.

I also have concerns that a report is apparently being commissioned by Bracknell Forest Council, with Swindon and Oxfordshire County Council, exploring the viability of a Swindon-Berkshire-Oxfordshire MSA and that this process has involved your officers – I have attached a copy of the initial proposal that has been shared with us for your information.

Whilst being led by another council, I consider this option against the agreed position I have heard stated previously; unless I was mistaken, all Oxfordshire councils were in favour of a Berkshire-Oxfordshire alliance, with the possible inclusion of Buckinghamshire, should they wish to engage, but with the majority of councils against the inclusion of Swindon. Again, I would appreciate written confirmation that your council is not pursuing inclusion of Swindon in any way, as I believe it would

clearly be going against the wishes of all but one of the Oxfordshire councils expressed positions.

As a district council leader, I recognise that I have no official influence on this decision, so I would appreciate your full support on this. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bethia Thomas  
Leader of the Council