



Appendix 3

Cllr Stephen Jordan
Leader
Cheltenham Borough Council
4 Priory Mews
Sidney Street
Cheltenham
GL52 6DJ

11 January 2011

Dear Stephen

UPDATE ON FUTURE JOINT WORKING IN THE SOUTH WEST

As you know, from our letter of 26 November and subsequent email of 21 December authorities have been asked to confirm by the **31 January 2011** whether they wish to continue with joint working and whether they wished to consider ongoing subscription to a small, shared officer structure. A form is enclosed for you to confirm the view of your authority by 31 January. Also attached is a note confirming the subscription for your authority for next year and the indicative liability for resigning members.

As a result of the provisional responses we have concluded that there should be sufficient critical mass to move forward with an organisation supporting those of us who chose to subscribe. However, some authorities remain uncertain – to help with their decision making it was felt helpful to produce the very short summary of key services that would be provided and this was circulated with our

email but is also enclosed. We are also happy to meet authorities and discuss the issues, and Phil Norrey, Chief Executive of Devon who has been providing advice through the process is happy to discuss with your Chief Executive.

In terms of resignation, the discussions we have had based on legal advice, have been clear that any departing member must pay their share of the liabilities before their resignation becomes effective. We hope it will be possible to manage this process smoothly. Attached is a letter that our lawyers have drafted setting out the position and seeking your confirmation of the position and the process. We also enclose the full detailed legal advice as we felt it important to share all this information and avoid individual member authorities having to spend resources on establishing the position individually.

We are now seeking firm commitments by 31 January so that the future arrangements can be moved forward at the meeting of the Resources and Management Committee meeting on 11 February. Following that meeting we are proposing to hold a meeting of all ongoing member authorities in March to formally endorse the Business Plan for 2012/13 and to agree ongoing member structures which we have agreed in our discussions with all the Leaders and members of SW Councils, need to be revisited to be made fit for purpose.

Yours sincerely



Angus Campbell Chair SW Leaders	Harvey Siggs Chair SW Employers	Alan Connett Chair SW Councils
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To be completed by **31 January 2011**

PLEASE RETURN TO ROSIE DENHAM, SW Employers 11 MIDDLE STREET, TAUNTON,TA1 1SH
OR EMAIL rosie.denham@swcouncils.gov.uk

Cheltenham Borough Council	
<p>Does your authority want to continue with a small, shared officer structure funded by subscription .</p> <p>(NB if the answer is NO: - please note that your authority will be required to pay its share of the liabilities reflecting legal advice)</p>	<p>Yes we wish to continue</p> <p>No we don't wish to continue</p> <p>(please delete as appropriate)</p>

THANK YOU

Please return with a final decision by 31 January 2011 to: ROSIE DENHAM, SW Employers 11 MIDDLE STREET, TAUNTON,TA1 1SH OR EMAIL rosie.denham@swcouncils.gov.uk