

29 January 2026

Councillor Sandra Coleman  
Mayor of Chipping Norton  
Chipping Norton Town Council

Dear Councillor Coleman

As you know, we are currently going through the Local Government Reorganisation process in Oxfordshire with three proposals submitted to the government at the end of last year.

The next stage in the process is a government consultation that we expect to launch at the beginning of February. We expect this consultation to run for seven weeks. This will be open for residents, businesses and community organisations to respond to and will be the opportunity for Town and Parish councils to formally give their views.

It is important that as many people as possible respond to the consultation given the long-lasting and significant impact this decision will have on our area. Given the last change of this scale was over 50 years ago, it is likely the decision government takes will have the same impact on local councils.

As you will likely know, West Oxfordshire District Council has been working on a proposal for two unitary councils covering Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. We have also endorsed this as the option we feel will deliver the best outcomes for our communities in Oxfordshire.

We have worked hard to make the two unitary proposal a positive option for change that strikes the right balance between big enough to be efficient and financially resilient while still remaining close to communities. We feel it could be a real opportunity to improve council services and build a positive future for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

We believe the two unitary proposal is the strongest and most deliverable option because it is designed to:

- **Be large enough to be efficient but small enough to care:** It strikes the right balance between scale and localism, meeting the government criteria for efficiency and resilience while also remaining locally responsive and of a manageable size to deliver services effectively and understand local need. This balance is crucial for delivering effective local government services.
- **Deliver better services:** The proposal responds to what residents have said needs improving, from highways to social care to planning. The councils would deliver better, more sustainable services working in partnership with public sector colleagues.
- **Solid financial outcomes:** Delivers high potential savings (£59.8m annually) and the lowest financial risk of all three proposals based on joint independent modelling, helping to protect key services and ensure long-term stability across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

- **Boosting both rural and urban economies:** Drives sustainable growth across Oxford, market towns and rural areas, creating more jobs, better transport and the right homes in the right places.
- **Creates councils responsive to their communities:** Keeps councils close to all local communities and tailored to their specific needs, ensuring strong local accountability and representation.

As part of the consultation process, we are sure you will want to carefully consider the options before coming to a view as a council and providing your own response to government. We would like to offer a meeting to talk you through the two unitary proposal and give you the opportunity to ask questions to inform your response.

We would also very much like to get your views and input on the next stages, building on the workshops we have been running throughout the process to get the views of town and parish councils. We very much value your input and see local councils as crucial to whatever model is taken forward.

If you would like to meet with us, please contact Mandy Smith ([mandy.smith@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.smith@westoxon.gov.uk)) and we would be happy to consider options. We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Andy Graham  
Leader



Giles Hughes  
Chief Executive