



15th December 2020

Cllr Nicholas Rushton CC
Leader of the Council
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester. LE3 8RJ

Dear Nick,

The six Leicestershire District Councils are very concerned by the report published for consideration at your Cabinet meeting this afternoon. The report sets out a number of unrealistic stipulations on Melton Borough Council and then confirms an aspiration to extend these to all other districts.

The County Council is the Highways and Education Authority. Districts are the Local Planning Authorities and must balance all competing requirements for infrastructure against the need for securing new housing and commercial development. National funding regimes are in place to support these statutory requirements and your proposals seek to subvert these and transfer a disproportionate amount of risk to district councils, potentially placing them in an unviable and unlawful position. Your Cabinet report quite rightly identifies the market risk associated with non-development and the financial dangers this would expose your Council to when forward funding infrastructure, but then simply suggests it would be appropriate to transfer this to organisations with a budget in some cases 100 times smaller than your own. District Councils already face risks and pressures associated with non-development especially in relation to affordable housing supply. Rather than seeking to transfer an unsustainable risk to district councils, why not work with us in making the case to Homes England and government about how they can support sustainable infrastructure delivery?

Your report confirms your intention to establish a policy to formalise this transfer of risks to district councils at your Council meeting in February 2021. We note that you are intending to consult with district councils but we question when this will happen and how much weight will be given to this, given it is only a few weeks away. For such a fundamental shift in policy and one that requires the consent of district councils, we would expect extensive and collaborative discussions to have taken place over a reasonable period of time.

There is no rationale or logic to this approach and the District Councils cannot support it. Pursuing this policy has the potential to jeopardise the delivery of infrastructure, new housing and local plans within Leicestershire for a generation.

We trust you will rethink your approach and enter into a reasonable and early dialogue with all district councils so we can work together on supporting the risks faced by the County Council in a reasonable and proportionate way.

Yours sincerely,


Handwritten signatures of Terry Richardson and Jonathan Morgan.

Cllr Terry Richardson
Leader, Blaby District Council

Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Leader, Charnwood Borough Council

Handwritten signature of Phil King.

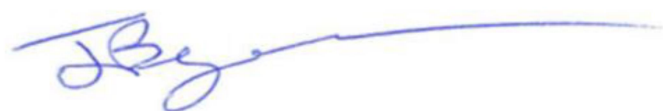
Cllr Phil King
Leader, Harborough District Council

Handwritten signature of Stuart Bray.

Cllr Stuart Bray
Leader, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Handwritten signature of Joe Orson.

Cllr Joe Orson
Leader, Melton Borough Council

Handwritten signature of John Boyce.

Cllr John Boyce
Leader, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council