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Dear Neil

Local Government Reorganisation

I hope all is well with you and congratulations on your re-election to the County Council. I imagine things are 'interesting' to say the least!

Anyway, John has fed back to me on yesterday's LGR discussion amongst Notts CEOs and that Adam had passionately and constructively sought support for including Rushcliffe's 'fourth options' within the ongoing workstreams and options appraisals.

I have some sympathy with your position. I'm aware of the local feeling and there is of course some rationale for your options that join our two authorities together. I'm afraid though that I can't support the inclusion of any other option, not just yours, and my Council mandate is to progress things in accordance with the Interim Plan. As Leaders, we've all tried really hard to hold things together as a collective, even if this has meant compromise and against our personal views. I've not spoken with other Leaders but my worry is that if Rushcliffe progress an option that is not included within the Interim Plan, this could unravel the County-wide commitment to joint working and a number of individual Councils will coalesce and work separately on their preferred option(s). My additional concern is that the options you are promoting fail to meet the Government's criteria and whether we agree with this criteria or not, they are the rules of the game.

While I completely respect yours and Rushcliffe's freedom to progress whatever option(s) it chooses, my clear position to John is that we will not support any work or public communication associated with any option other than those included in the Interim Plan.

Kind regards

Councillor Paul Peacock
Leader, Newark and Sherwood District Council