

Cllr Tim Oliver OBE  
Leader of Surrey County Council

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Private and confidential

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Dear Tim,

Thank you for our recent discussions about the impact and opportunities Local Government Reorganisation could bring to Surrey. This is a truly exciting time for Surrey.

We are grateful to you and the team for the level of involvement and engagement – of the ICB and wider ICS partners. The ideas and proposals have been subject of discussion at a number formal and informal meetings. We have considered the proposals in the context of the great strengths and progress to date in Surrey; our joint and joined up working, our shared ambitions and delivery of the ICS Strategy.

Surrey Heartlands ICB is fully supportive of the proposal to create 2 Unitary Authorities that cover the East and West of the county. This configuration is the best alignment to the work and organisation of NHS services for the people of Surrey.

We would also like to highlight the following points:

Surrey Heartlands ICS is fully supportive of a future that would see ‘whole’ Surrey coterminous boundaries local authorities and NHS commissioning and delivery.

We welcome the emphasis on our pioneering work driving neighbourhood working and the Towns and Villages approach, we are committed to future development of that model. We have long recognised the synergies and opportunities that our local working brings. The benefits are clear to see and the increased emphasis in the emerging 10 year plan on neighbourhoods and the 3 shifts of care will be enhanced by local neighbourhood working.

We will be delighted to support the work over the summer to pilot the Community Boards. The concept of bringing together health, local government and Police with and in local communities is an approach that we believe will result in genuine impact and improvement.

As you know we have championed closer and more integrated working and together we have made good progress and share ambitions for this to develop further. As the ICB and the wider NHS goes through changes this year we can see a future where the ICB will organise our approach to a more at scale focus in line with the proposed 2 new East:West Unitary Councils. This will complement the at scale Surrey work and the local neighbourhood working.

We do need to acknowledge the prospect of moving to a smaller number of larger ICBs which will likely require mergers, however we will ensure that even if there is functional consolidation across ICB boundaries, that we will maintain an NHS 'system' aligned with the mayoral and unitary council boundaries. We will ensure that the 'system' coterminosity and tight working relations (in this case with Surrey, and especially around the working of the ICP) will not be undermined by ICB consolidations.

Yours sincerely,



Karen McDowell  
Chief Executive Surrey Heartlands ICS



Ian Smith  
Chair Surrey Heartlands ICB