



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Simon Hoare MP
Minister for Local Government
Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Friday 8th March, 2024

Dear Simon,

Many thanks for taking the time to notify each of us earlier this year regarding your Best Value Notice decision.

We acknowledge DLUHC's ongoing concerns regarding the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and confirm our willingness and desire to continue to engage with DLUHC to provide assurance of improvement.

We appreciate your recognition of the substantial progress made by the CPCA and welcome your specific endorsement of the efforts of officers in that ongoing improvement. All members of the Board affirm the professionalism, dedication, and expertise of our workforce, and we are confident that our officers understand this Best Value decision was in no way a reflection of their efforts.

We do acknowledge that, despite the acknowledged good work of officers, more work is needed to ensure effective partnership working between all levels of the Combined Authority, including assurance that all of its constituent authorities, together with the Mayor, are able and willing to participate constructively and collaboratively in the work of the Authority in general, and the Board in particular.

We specifically acknowledge and accept that the Board as a whole needs to work more collaboratively to achieve consensus, wherever possible, in progressing the Authority's work so as to provide the assurance that you note the Improvement Board requires.

We collectively accept that the Combined Authority continues to face challenges, that we need to demonstrate further progress on those challenges, and that it is incumbent upon us all, individually and collectively, to effect the improvements that are necessary.

In closing, as a board, we would like to extend an open invitation to you to come and see our region in the flesh. There's a huge amount of excellent work going on in all corners of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and you will no doubt take great confidence from seeing it for yourself.

Thank you again and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr Nik Johnson".

On behalf of the CPCA Board
Dr Nik Johnson
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Nik.Johnson@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

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