EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Date: 29th October 2026

Dear Minister

Hampshire LGR - confirmation on final decision date needed

Thank you for your statement to the House of Commons on 29 October.

You confirmed that the Government intends to make its “minded to” decisions in early 2027, including for Hampshire, followed by a period of engagement involving your officials and relevant councils.

I want to be clear that East Hampshire District Council, alongside our district council colleagues across Hampshire, expects to be a full and meaningful participant in that engagement.

I am therefore seeking your firm assurance that, once this engagement has concluded, the Government will make its final decision on Hampshire before the pre-election period begins in March 2027.

This timetable matters. Hampshire’s councils, our staff and our communities need certainty. Allowing the process to extend into the pre-election period would inevitably constrain councils’ ability to engage fully and publicly at precisely the point when clarity will be most important.

I am sure your officials will have advised you of these implications. I would therefore welcome your personal confirmation that a final decision on Hampshire will be made before the pre-election period commences.

On a final matter, the Government has previously stated that it will consider the proposals submitted for Hampshire, but is not obliged to select any of them. If you decide not to proceed with any of the proposals currently before you, I would be grateful if you could set out clearly what would happen next.

Regards

Cllr Richard Millard
Leader of East Hampshire District Council