



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Hampshire County Council
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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
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Dear John Coughlan, Stuart Jarvis,

WELBORNE GARDEN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

I understand that you had a positive meeting with MHCLG officials on Monday 1 February, discussing ways to progress the Welborne Garden Village development. My officials met with the County and District and agreed that we would progress to the next stage of analysis to better understand the scope of potential cost increases. In parallel, Fareham are working with Buckland Development Ltd to explore if a provision in the 106 agreement to cover cost overruns can be incorporated.

This scheme is important to us all as a critical driver for growth in southern Hampshire, and is set to deliver significant short-term benefits, including potential new homes starts within the next financial year.

I understand that Hampshire County Council, a long-standing supporter of the Welborne Garden Village development, has raised some concerns about taking on the role of contracting partner for Housing Infrastructure Funding and acting as promoter for the scheme.

The upgrade to Junction 10 is a major project, and, as with all such projects, carries a degree of risk which Hampshire County Council is rightly concerned to fully scope and mitigate. My officials are keen to work collaboratively with Hampshire County Council to ensure a successful outcome for all parties. A number of avenues for addressing the Council's concerns remain, which should be fully explored.

Hampshire County Council remains the body best placed to promote and contract for the Junction 10 works, and I hope that we can work closely in the coming weeks to assess the options to move forward. I am particularly keen to support the Council as promoter for the scheme and would ask you, given other options are still being explored, to reconsider withdrawing from this role.

I hope that my officials can continue to work closely with you and your colleagues in the coming weeks to find a way forward to unlock this important project. I have asked my officials to update me on progress.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jenrick.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP