



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
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19 March 2019

Dear Tony and Brian,

Thank you for your second report. I am delighted that you have made such a significant impact in your roles as Commissioners. May I commend you on the speed at which you have tackled the financial issues at Northamptonshire and set the pace for change.

I note that you intend to attend the Joint Committees which are being established by the County and Districts and Boroughs of Northamptonshire in connection with the possible local government restructure. As you say, this is appropriate where there is a likelihood that the Joint Committees are considering issues which might impact on your work to stabilise Northamptonshire County Council.

As I am sure you are aware, I am currently considering proposals for a restructure in Northamptonshire. I have not yet made my decision. Should I decide on a restructure, Joint Committees of the affected councils would then initially have an important role. You will wish to note that any Joint Committees would have no power to approve financial decisions made by the County Council or to affect its governance. Nevertheless, your input would be important, should the decision be taken to go ahead with a restructure, as part of the process of moving towards the establishment of shadow authorities.

I hope that you will both be available to meet me in the next few weeks to discuss the detail of the report and the steps you are taking to enable the Council to move forward in a stable and sustainable manner.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP