

## Leader of the Council

Councillor Barry Wood

# Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Sir Bob Kerslake  
Chief Executive  
Homes and Communities Agency  
110 Buckingham Palace Road  
Victoria  
London  
SW1W 9SA

Bodicote House  
Bodicote • Banbury  
Oxfordshire • OX15 4AA  
Telephone **01295 252535**  
Textphone 01295 221572  
DX 24224 (Banbury)

<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk>

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Please ask for **Councillor Barry Wood**      Our ref **BW/JH/MH/dr**      Your ref  
Direct Dial **01295 221573**      Fax **01295 270028**      Email **barry.wood@cherwell-dc.gov.uk**

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9 February 2010

Dear Sir Bob

### Single Conversation Oxfordshire Pilot Local Investment Agreement

As you will be aware Oxfordshire is one of the areas engaged with HCA on Single Conversation pilot work. I am Chairman of the Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP), which is the body chosen to steer the work in our area.

With the help of your SE Region team, we are making good progress on our Local Investment Plan (LIP), but I am writing to ask for your views on how the pilot exercises will progress in respect of the next stage - the Local Investment Agreement (LIA).

We have noticed the publication of your new guidance document "Single Conversation - Further Information; Local Investment Agreements". We have also been advised by the SE Region Team that the Agency is no longer expecting the pilots to have a completed Local investment Agreement by the original deadline of end March 2010. The implication appears to be that pilot areas will now be completing LIAs at some future date. This means that completion could be at the same time as other, non pilot, areas.

This position has, in recent meetings, led to a number of questions from members of the partnership as to whether there are actually any benefits to Oxfordshire in progressing fast with our Local investment Plan. To do this work effectively we have had to expend considerable local authority resource. I would hope that we would be able to point to some specific benefits from this. I understand that in some instances early Local Investment Agreement sign off has been achieved and I would like to understand if this will still be possible for Oxfordshire.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I would appreciate your view on this. David Ashworth from the HCA SE Region team has agreed to present to SPIP on the revised LIA arrangements at our next meeting on 1 March. It would therefore be good to hear from you by that date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barry Wood', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Barry Wood  
Leader Cherwell District Council and  
Chairman Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership

cc

David Edwards / David Ashworth, HCA SE Region

John Hoad, Strategic Director (PHE) Lead Officer SPIP Executive Group