

From the Leader of the County Council  
David Parsons CBE



*Council of the Year 2009*

Cllr Mike Rook  
Leader  
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Date: 4 March 2010

*Dear Mike*

### **Efficiency Programme & Inter Agency Working**

I welcome the positive and encouraging response from District Councils to the Leicester & Leicestershire Partnership Improvement and Efficiency Programme. Collectively you have indicated your willingness to be involved in developing single service solutions to back office functions. I am sure the threat of a CAA red flat will recede if we can turn many of these into actual single service agreements.

However, it will also be important to demonstrate that opportunities for efficiencies in front line services are also being addressed. The CAA Lead, Mary Perry, has already referred to the potential for savings through wider arrangements for waste collection, for example. In this regard I hope you will agree that the Waste Strategy currently being reviewed through the Waste Partnership should identify the need to review these arrangements as a Year One action and to consider how some of the potential savings could be utilised to improve our collective good performance in this area of service to the people of Leicestershire.

As well as championing the Improvement & Efficiency Programme, the Public Service Board has discussed the need to ensure the day-to-day arrangements for partnership work reflect the resource and staffing reductions we all face in the next few years. This means removing duplication and increasing clarity about what activities are undertaken where, by which organisations and partnerships. The Board requested that a discussion paper be prepared to outline how this might be achieved, a copy of which is attached.

I recognise that the paper contains challenges for District Councils – such as proposals for a Single Sustainable Community Strategy for the County. It also contains opportunities – including improved district and locality co-ordination. I would appreciate it if you could respond to the discussion paper – hopefully in a positive manner! – by the end of April.

With best wishes

*Yours David*

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