

Our ref: :

Your ref: :

When telephoning please ask for: Tina Jane White (Branch Secretary)/Sarah McGreal



22 June 2016

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Mr T Crowley  
Chief Executive Officer  
Horsham District Council  
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[www.unison.org.uk/southeast](http://www.unison.org.uk/southeast)

Dear Tom

**RE: Shared Services**

Further to the meeting with UNISON Representatives from Arun District Council, Chichester District Council and Horsham District Council held on Friday 17 June 2016, I am writing to welcome the fact that this will be repeated on a monthly basis over the coming 6 months.

Obviously the staffing briefings that are due to take place in the 3 Councils over the next couple of weeks will be important in identifying the current concerns that staff have regarding the prospect of Shared Services between the Councils. We will be ensuring that UNISON representatives are available to attend these briefings.

It is vital that any developments/communications are coordinated to avoid the risk that staff are not receiving the same information at the same time. This can lead to unhelpful rumours developing or mistrust of the process. UNISON see this as a very important part of the process and we want to ensure that this is a standing item in our monthly discussions.

A primary concern for our membership is the possibility that the aim of entering into Shared Services is to enable the privatisation of services or outsourcing. This is something which the union will contest, should this method of service delivery become a preferred option in the future.

From our meeting last week it appears that the aim, currently, is to maintain "in house" services, although one of the 3 Councils will be the host for a specific service. The decision regarding who will host each area has not yet been made. We would welcome information on the current differences between the various services so that we can start to identify to areas of concern that our members might have in relation to service provision and employment going forward.

UNISON will, of course, be monitoring the issues that arise from the staff briefings and in feedback from our members so that we can bring these to the regular meetings. We look forward to constructive discussions with Arun, Chichester and Horsham Councils going forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sarah McGreal'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Sarah' being more prominent than the last name 'McGreal'.

Sarah McGreal  
**Regional Organiser**

**ALSO SENT TO:** Mr N Lynn (Chief Executive – Arun District Council)  
Ms D Shepherd (Chief Executive – Chichester District Council)

cc: Brian Walter (Branch Secretary – Arun Branch of UNISON)  
Sarah Hobbs (Branch Secretary – Chichester District Branch of UNISON)  
Tina Jane White (Branch Secretary – Horsham District Branch of UNISON)