



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and  
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local  
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Our Ref: 10153225

Councillor Paul Marshall  
Leader, West Sussex County Council  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1RQ

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letters of 10 December and 23 July updating me on West Sussex County Council's improvement journey. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

I was delighted to learn, from both letters, about the significant progress you have made to improve the Council's leadership, governance and culture over recent months, particularly while responding to challenges presented by Covid-19. I also welcome your ambition for the future, as shown by members' recent endorsement of plans to 'reset and reboot' the Council and decision to continue the corporate improvement partnership between East and West Sussex County Councils to July 2021.

In view of your progress to date and clear commitment to ongoing improvement, I am content for you to continue on your improvement journey independently, without further oversight from my department.

I would however welcome the opportunity to meet with you, Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council and Becky Shaw, Chief Executive of East and West Sussex County Councils to take stock of your progress to date and to discuss your next steps. My diary secretary will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

I am copying this letter to Cllr Glazier, John Coughlan, West Sussex Children's Services Commissioner, Tim Loughton MP and Andrew Griffith MP.

With best wishes,

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP**

