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26 October 2009

Dear Colleague

North West Independent Members' Forum

You may recall receiving a letter dated 23 September from Roy Jones at Lancashire County Council inviting expressions of interest from authorities to host future Forum meetings and seeking a volunteer authority to take on the role of Secretary.

In discussing the matter with Roy, we identified that the Forum is not particularly well attended and that, as a result of the footprint the Forum covers, the distance to travel and the corresponding time commitment may be one of the reasons for this.

We felt that perhaps the time had come to consider forming a Lancashire Independent Member's Forum. This would have a number of benefits – travel to the meetings would be shorter and therefore independent members would need to commit less time to the meetings, it would still be of sufficient size to discuss common problems and share good practice and it would be administratively easier to manage.

Before taking this any further I agreed that I would write to colleagues to seek their views and the views of their independent members. I would therefore be grateful if you would let me know whether you would support such a move.

Yours sincerely

Jan Finch
Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

Cc Roy Jones, Lancashire County Council