

**Elevate East Lancashire**

New life for neighbourhoods

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Dear Sir Michael

Re: Lyons Inquiry Roundtable Discussion

Thank you for invitation to take part in the event on Thursday 25 January.

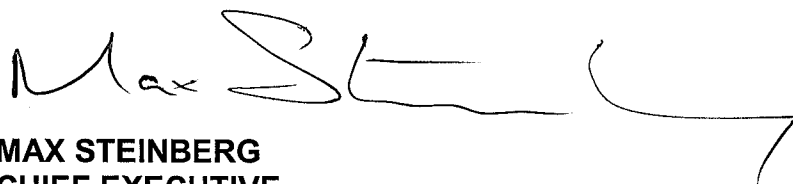
Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend on this occasion – please accept my apologies. I would, however, like to make a point about the ‘Governance’ issues you are going to discuss, relating particularly to two-tier areas.

Strategic land use planning issues do not respect local authority boundaries; they usually correspond to market areas. Many metropolitan areas have established mechanisms for cooperation on these issues, and all the local authorities involved are unitary. Cooperation across boundaries in two tier areas is much more complicated: there are more partners involved and each brings smaller resources and narrower responsibilities to the table. As you know, this issue has been a major focus of my work with Elevate East Lancashire, which involves six local authorities (one county, one unitary and four districts) covering one market area, composed of two sub-market areas. Partnership working is fundamental to our daily work: we simply could not operate without it.

The recently published Local Government White Paper gave Lancashire (LGWP) something of an opportunity to achieve streamlined structures, although the complexities of the options and processes involved are less than ideal. The result may be an improvement on the current situation, but cross boundary partnership working on issues such as land use planning will still be vital. So my answer to your question ‘are new / reformed institutions necessary?’ is yes, when applied to areas of two-tier government, although the precise form of such institutions will depend upon the LGWP processes.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



MAX STEINBERG
CHIEF EXECUTIVE