

**HEAD OF LEGAL, HR & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**  
**RICHARD IVORY, Solicitor**  
Southampton City Council  
Civic Centre  
Southampton SO14 7LT



**FAREHAM** BOROUGH  
COUNCIL  
www.fareham.gov.uk



**Southampton and Fareham Legal Services Partnership**

Direct Dial: 023 8083 2794  
Email: richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk  
Please ask for: Mr R J Ivory

Fax: 023 8083 2308  
Our ref: RJI/lcb/  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Minister of State for Housing and Local Government  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Shapps

**LOCAL AUTHORITY POLLS AND THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS**

As you will be aware from conversations you have had with the Leader of Southampton City Council, Dr Richard Williams, the Council would like to undertake a poll under Section 116 Local Government Act 2003 in relation to various issues in the city, not least the proposed new biomass plant which yesterday the authority decided to formally object to.

One proposal in order to save the significant cost of running a poll separately, is that it should be timed to coincide with the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, due to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

As you will be aware, certain elections and polls can be combined, but the Police and Crime Commissioner elections are being run specifically under the relatively new Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2010 and not under other electoral legislation. As a result, the poll and the election cannot be combined unless there is a revision to Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act 1985. My understanding is that this could be achieved by the passing of secondary legislation or by derogation order, but I am conscious that time is rather against us unless this is undertaken by the Government very shortly.

The Leader of the Council has, therefore, asked me to write to you personally to secure your commitment to this course of action which will clearly not only benefit Southampton but the wider local authority community, both in relation to this year's forthcoming election and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Ivory**  
**Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services**

Cc: Councillor Richard Williams    Leader  
Alistair Neill                      Chief Executive,  
Mark Heath                          Director of Corporate Services / Returning Officer  
Carolyn Downs                      Chief Executive, Local Government Association  
Rt Hon Eric Pickles                Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  
Bob Neill MP                        Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Dr Alan Whitehead MP             Southampton Test  
John Denham MP                    Southampton Itchen  
Caroline Nokes MP                Romsey & Southampton North  
Sir Merrick Cockell                Chairman, Local Government Association  
David Sparkes OBE                Vice-Chairman, Local Government Association  
Gerald Vernon-Jackson            Vice-Chairman, Local Government Association  
Marianne Overton                 Vice-Chairman, Local Government Association

**If you would like this letter sent to you in another format or language, please contact the number at the top of this letter.**