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David Jackson  
Hart Association of Town & Parish Councils

By email - 'david.jackson@crookhamvillage.org.uk';

21 March 2024

Dear Cllr Jackson

### **Basingstoke Canal Partnership**

Further to the meeting and decision of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee (JMC) on 22 November 2023 we wished to write to all Members of the committee to update them on the changes which are now in process.

We agreed that changes to the management of the Canal Partnership were required to improve the financial stability of the delivery body (the Basingstoke Canal Authority [BCA]). The Committee also agreed that the governance of the Canal Partnership was to be updated to reflect decision making and improve communications with wider stakeholders.

Hampshire and Surrey County Council's Executive Member and Leader respectively will shortly be making the formal decisions to bring these new arrangements into effect from 1 April 2024. This will enable the BCA to concentrate on managing the core statutory duties surrounding the management of the Canal for public safety, recreation (including navigation, health and wellbeing), and nature conservation. It will also see the transfer of the Canal Visitor Centre at Mytchett to Surrey County Council's Natural Capital Group, in order to make the required investment more straightforward

As recommended by members in feedback to Consultants MACE, the Canal's governance will be updated. The JMC will cease to exist from 1 April, but members will continue to play a vital partnership and stakeholder role and therefore will be invited to the annual meeting of the Canal Partnership.

Most operational decisions will continue to be made by Senior Officers of Surrey and Hampshire County Council, but as the Basingstoke Canal Management Team (BCMT). Their actions will remain closely scrutinised by the Basingstoke Canal Joint Board (BCJB) made up of two Members each from the owning County Councils and supported by a panel of experts.

Riparian authorities that continue to support the Canal Partnership either financially or by providing other support will be invited to attend an Annual Meeting and receive an annual report of the BCMT and BCJB, and also attend a summer site visit. A new Service Level Agreement will be entered into which each contributing partner – this will set out the services to be delivered by the BCA on the

### **Basingstoke Canal Authority**

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Canal Partnership's behalf in return for the contribution. Our officers will be in touch with the riparian authorities' officers to discuss these new agreements in the near future.

Finally, we would both like to thank the Members who have served on the Basingstoke Canal JMC for their support and contributions – together as a Partnership we have been able to ensure that the Basingstoke Canal is a place of outstanding natural beauty, and a thriving waterway valuable to visitors and the communities which surround it alike. The changes now being made are set out to help us continue to deliver that for the future, we both look forward to your and your authority's continuing support for the Canal and the Canal Partnership.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan K. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Cllr Jonathan Glen  
*Chair Basingstoke Canal JMC*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Deach". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cllr Paul Deach  
*Vice-chair Basingstoke Canal JMC*