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**OFFICE OF  
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Steve Watson

25 August 2006

Dear «name»

**Major Crisis in Local Democracy**

I am writing to you at the request of the Members of Maldon District Council to bring to your attention a matter which our Members feel is preventing them from properly discharging their democratic role within our District.

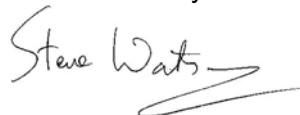
At a meeting of this Council on 13 July 2006, it was resolved that the Chief Executive should write to both the Lord Chancellor and the Minister for Communities and Local Government setting out their concerns on this matter, and asking for action to be taken. I attach for your information a copy of that letter, which I believe is self-explanatory.

This Council believes that the issues raised affect all Councillors across England and wishes to secure your support in asking the Ministers to address these concerns. If your Council also feels that this is a matter of serious concern then we would ask that you also write to the Lord Chancellor and the Minister in similar terms to ourselves.

We would, in any event, be interested to receive your views on this matter and the action, if any that you propose to take. We would also welcome a discussion on this issue at the next Essex Local Government Association meeting so that we can take the views of other Essex Authorities into account as we take forward our concerns.

I shall look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely



Steve Watson  
Chief Executive

Enc.