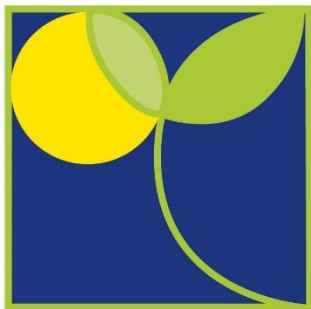




Okehampton United Charities

Funding for the Community

Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton
EX20 1AA

Dear Emma and Councillors,

I am writing to inform Okehampton Town Council of the proposed merger between Okehampton Foundation (OF) and Simmons Homes (SH), as set out in the recently agreed Heads of Terms.

As you will be aware, OTC currently holds the right to nominate five of the seven trustees of Simmons Homes. Under the proposed merger structure, the assets, operations and governance of SH would transfer to the almshouse branch of OF, with OF becoming the sole trustee of the SH charity in place of the current SH trustees. As a result, the existing nomination arrangements would no longer operate in their current form.

This change would also mean that the Mayor's ex officio trustee role would not continue in its current form. We recognise the historic and symbolic importance of this connection and wish to ensure the Council is fully briefed at an early stage.

As part of the merger arrangements, in order to ensure OF can be appointed as sole corporate trustee of the SH charity as per the Heads of Terms, it also will be necessary for the SH trustees to formally amend the SH governing document to remove the ex officio trustee role granted to the Mayor and to remove OTC's right to nominate SH trustees. To avoid the need to obtain Charity Commission consent to this change, please can you confirm written or email consent on behalf of both OTC and the Mayor to these amendments as soon as possible?

Given OTC's longstanding involvement with SH, we want to ensure the Council has full visibility of the process. No decisions have yet been taken beyond the Heads of Terms, and the merger remains subject to due diligence, regulatory consents and formal approval by both charities.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed governance arrangements and to hear any views the Council may wish to share as part of this process

Karen Percival CG (Affiliated)
Charity Manager / Clerk
Okehampton Foundation* / Simmons Homes
PO BOX 109
Okehampton
Devon EX20 9BF

Tel: 07715 621480

Email: clerk@okehamptoncharities.org.uk

Date 6th August 2026

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Karen Percival', written in a cursive style.

Karen Percival CG (Affiliated)

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Okehampton Foundation*and Simmons Homes