**Official Statement from the Mayor of Oakham**

This statement is made without any political affiliations or motives; it is solely about preserving our heritage and community.

Rutland, the smallest historic county in England, was first mentioned in records in the 10th century. It was officially recognized as a county in 1159 and merged with Leicestershire in 1974. However, in 1997, Rutland regained its status as an independent unitary authority.

While administrative changes may alter boundaries on a map, they cannot erase the pride and identity that Rutland imbues in each of us. Our ceremonial status reflects our unique heritage and the pride and passion of our residents.

Oakham, as the administrative centre of Rutland, holds a special responsibility in this effort. It is the heart of our county, the hub of governance, and the guardian of our collective identity. Oakham's role is crucial in preserving Rutland's ceremonial status, ensuring that our traditions and community spirit are upheld.

We must unite to safeguard Rutland's ceremonial status. This isn't just about lines on a map—it's about maintaining the heart and soul of a community that has thrived for centuries. We owe it to our ancestors, our children, and ourselves to protect Rutland's legacy.

By preserving Rutland's ceremonial status, we honour the traditions, celebrations, and memories that have shaped our lives. We must ensure that Rutland's spirit continues to inspire and unite us amidst change.

Now is the time to act. Let us come together with determination and passion to fight for Rutland's ceremonial status. For our past, our present, and our future, we must not let Rutland be forgotten.

Thank you, and let us stand strong for Rutland!

Sincerely, [Mayor's Name] Mayor of Oakham