



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Mel Barrett
Chief Executive
By email

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Stewardship*

Department for Levelling Up,
Housing and Communities
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Email:

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Dear Mel,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2022 and your update on the progress of the improvement work at Nottingham City Council. I am writing to inform you that today we will be publishing the latest report from the Nottingham City Council Improvement and Assurance Board ('the Board'), received in December last year, along with the Ministerial response to Sir Tony Redmond. Both documents will be available [here](#).

I am pleased to hear that there has been a step up in progress in the improvement work since Directions were issued on 2 September 2022, and it is encouraging that Sir Tony is satisfied with the steps taken by the Council to address the Board's 'Statement of Requirements'. Ministers agree with their assessment that delivery of the Council's improvement plan is now critical. Sir Tony has outlined five key issues which must be prioritised over the next quarter, including progressing the budget setting process, addressing the residual gap of £3.2million and addressing governance and performance management issues, and it is crucial that neither momentum nor focus is lost.

Based on the evidence provided to date Ministers are content to continue with the current arrangements and there is no change to the status of the intervention. The Directions issued by the former Secretary of State last September directed the Council to 'adopt any recommendations from the Board with respect to the Improvement Plan and its implementation'. Minister Rowley has today made it clear to the Board that he is supportive of them using their powers of direction expediently and decisively if they are not satisfied with the progress being made. Ministers will review the current arrangements on receipt of the Board's next report to determine whether the exercising of further powers under the Local Government Act 1999, including the appointment of Commissioners, will be necessary.

I am grateful to you and your staff for your continued cooperation with the Improvement and Assurance Board.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship