

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Improvement and Assurance Board – Instructions Update
13 September 2023**

IAB – Background

- In 2022 Government decided to implement an Improvement and Assurance Board here at Nottingham City Council following local decisions around the unsuccessful Robin Hood Energy.
- This Board is made up of three external members¹ and the Council Leader.
- The IAB’s role is to advise the council on its improvement journey and report to Government on the council’s progress. It also oversees delivery of the Recovery and Improvement Plan / Together for Nottingham (TfN) Plan
- The status of the IAB has moved from non-statutory to statutory (Sept 2022), in part due to the findings that have emerged from the council’s own recovery and improvement activity.
- The government has the power to either enhance the IAB further or install Commissioners should it feel that that is necessary.

Latest position – IAB Instructions and Quarterly Report to Ministers

- In February 2023, the IAB issued a total of 39 Instructions to the council to bring about change at an increased pace in several areas. These included Governance, Finance, Transformation, Corporate Planning, Companies and Workforce Culture and Performance Outcomes.
- The [Instructions](#) were considered at [Full Council](#) in March 2023.
- Each Instruction carried with it a deadline and the council has been working hard to meet these.
- TfN Plan actions and the Instructions are managed by a responsible lead officer and linked to an Executive Member with oversight by the Chief Executive and Leader.
- Formal reports on each Instruction have been sent to the IAB upon the relevant deadline.
- Although most deadlines have now passed, there are a number with deadlines due in the future. There are five Instructions with deadlines at the end of September, one in December and three in March 2024. See below for the detail of these instructions.
- The council reported our interim progress on all 39 Instructions to the IAB and Government at the end of June 2023.
- The IAB produces regular reports to the Secretary of State. The most recent, eighth, report of the independent members of the IAB was informed by the council’s June report on the 39 Instructions and is with Government for consideration.
- We are currently waiting to hear back from the Minister on what decisions will be taken following this most recent quarterly report.

Instructions with a future deadline

Instruction	Deadline
2.4 - Early resolution of all outstanding matters relating to 19/20, 20/21 and 21/22 audit of accounts	30 September 2023
2.8 - Bring forward a credible and risk assessed plan for additional pipeline of capital receipts linked to the implementation of the corporate landlord	
5.8 - Carry out an internal evaluation of the shareholder unit	
6.1 - Establish and maintain a trained, skilled, competent workforce accommodating fundamental cultural change	

¹ Sir Tony Redmond – Chair; Sean Nolan – Finance lead; Robin Hughes – Companies lead; Cllr David Mellen – Leader of the council.

6.7 - Monitor the response to Ofsted recommendations and ensure compliance	
6.8 - Ensure the Council's new pay policy demonstrably assists effective recruitment and relation	31 December 2023
2.6 - Deliver the Financial Improvement Plan covering the key elements identified by the IAB to provide assurance in respect of finance and accounting	31 March 2024
5.3 - Finalise the strategic plans of local authority companies expeditiously	
6.6 - Ensure the Recovery and Improvement Plan is achieved within the set timescale	