



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Sir Tony Redmond
By email

Lee Rowley MP
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
Government and Building Safety*

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

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Dear Sir Tony,

I am writing in response to your latest report, received on 24 February, which provided an update on the Improvement and Assurance Board's assessment of Nottingham City Council's progress in delivering its improvement and recovery plan and fulfilling the 67 requirements laid down in September 2022. I would like to thank you and the Board for your sustained efforts in supporting the Council's on-going recovery.

I am pleased to see that Nottingham City Council has made some good progress around improvement and recovery in recent months and was able to set a balanced budget for 2023/24. I am disappointed, however, that the Board's overall assessment is that "there has been a distinct lack of urgency in tackling the necessary change" and that at present you are not satisfied with the progress being made. I support the decision of the Board to make recommendations to the Council in the form of instructions to accelerate the pace of improvement and to seek early resolution of the most pressing issues. The Council must increase the momentum with which change is being made and I expect the Council to continue to comply with the Directions moving forward.

This is a critical point in the Council's improvement journey. The city of Nottingham will continue to face many challenges and it is imperative that the Council maintains and builds on the progress made to date. The onus is on the Council delivering the necessary improvements to the Board's satisfaction, and I will continue to seek your assurance on progress made and the adequacy of the Council's performance against the instructions. I will continue to assess whether the exercising of further powers under the Local Government Act 1999, including the appointment of Commissioners, will be necessary on receipt of your next report in June.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP