



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Stephen Brown  
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service  
Slough Borough Council

**Max Soule**  
*Deputy Director, Local Government  
Stewardship*

**Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities**  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

*By email only*

22 May 2023

Dear Stephen,

### **Commissioner Appointments**

I wrote to you on 16 March informing you that the Slough Best Value Commissioners had written to Minister Lee Rowley on 22 December 2022 with their second report on the progress of the Council, and including the Minister's response. I also noted that on 1 March Max Caller CBE had retired as Lead Commissioner, and on 12 March Margaret Lee had resigned as Finance Commissioner. I noted that Ministers would now consider what skills and experience are required with the Commissioner team to meet the challenges of the intervention.

I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State has today written to Gavin Jones to appoint him to the role of Lead Commissioner. The Secretary of State expects Gavin to fulfil this role of Lead Commissioner for one to two days a week. Gavin will continue to lead on cultural change and provide strategic insights, resilience, and experience to the Commissioner team.

The Secretary of State has also today appointed Denise Murray and Gerard Curran as Commissioners in Slough Borough Council, with the expectation that they each fulfil their roles at Slough for two to three days per week. The Secretary of State expects the team of Commissioners to act jointly or severally to make sure that the Authority meets its Best Value duty, and that Commissioners will agree between themselves how they divide their responsibilities. We expect Denise to use her expertise to focus on the financial position of the Authority and its long-term financial sustainability, and Gerard to use his experience to focus on strategy and transformation and driving forward work on the long-term resilience of the Authority.

The Directions require your Authority to pay the Commissioners reasonable expenses and such fees as the Secretary of State determines to be paid to them. The Secretary of State is mindful of the need for Commissioner remuneration to represent value for money for local taxpayers. In recognition of the nature and scale of the intervention, he has determined fees of £1,200 per day for the role of Lead Commissioner, and £1,100 per day for Commissioners. The Secretary of State also expects the Commissioners to be paid reasonable expenses in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in your Authority's staff handbook.

I am copying this letter to the Commissioners and to your Council's Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer. This letter will be published, together with the appointment letters and a revised Explanatory Memorandum to the Directions, on gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Max Soule  
Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship