



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government**

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Mike Cunningham QPM
Via email

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10 June 2021

Dear Mr Cunningham

STATUTORY INTERVENTION: LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Further to our phone call last week, and the appointment letter you have received from Catherine Frances, I am writing to thank you for agreeing to serve as Lead Commissioner to Liverpool City Council.

The intervention package I announced today transfers all executive functions associated with regeneration, highways and property management at the Council to the Commissioners. These are for use should the Council not satisfy you and your Commissioner team in their improvement processes. Whilst I hope it won't be necessary for you to use these powers, you must, in my view, be empowered to do so to deliver the reforms that are required.

Although the purpose and remit of the intervention is defined in the statutory Directions, I expect Commissioners to act to support the Council more generally on their broader improvement journey; I have seen in past interventions the way in which Commissioners have been able to provide this strategic support to a council. More generally, I am keen that we do all that we can to support the city, to give confidence to those who want to invest in the city and to contract with the Council, and to do business in Liverpool.

In this regard there are four specific areas that I would like to suggest you take a particular interest in over the coming months. The first of these relates to the timing of the submission that the Council must make to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). To make the changes required for elections in 2023 the submission must be sent to the LGBCE ahead of their November 2021 meeting, so it is imperative that the Council makes timely progress. The second is the Governance Review that the Council has resolved to hold, given the impact this could have on the way in which the Council is governed. The third is the financial position of the Council, in particular as it continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fourth is the delivery of wider Council services outside of

regeneration, highways and property management, insofar as you are made aware of any issues that raise concerns for the Council's wider improvement journey.

I look forward to receiving the first report from you and your Commissioner team as soon as is practical and within three months as we have agreed. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do feel free to get in touch with my officials at any time.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP