



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

John Crabtree  
Chair  
Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel

**The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local  
Government*

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5 November 2015

Dear Mr Crabtree

Thank you for your letter of 5 November 2015, in which you set out the Panel's view on progress by Birmingham City Council against the Kerslake recommendations. I found your analysis of the situation thorough, and I am grateful for your Panel's work.

Whilst you have indicated that some progress has been made, the significant risks you and your Panel have outlined in relation to the slow progress in developing a City Partnership and an agreed vision for the City; a long term financial strategy, and in securing the senior management capability required for the size of the Council are concerning. In the context of these concerns and the Council's financial position, I am hereby extending the Panel's oversight until the end of March 2016, so that you will continue to be available to oversee progress and the entire budget setting process.

I welcome your promise of a further update in early January, following your planned public meeting on 14 December. At that point I will be particularly interested in your views on how effectively the leadership is working with the Panel, and your judgement on whether the Council has made adequate progress, or whether further measures will need to be taken.

I would be grateful if you and your Panel would write to me before your planned update in January if any issues of immediate concern arise before that point.

Yours Sincerely,

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**