

Leader of the Council - Councillor Chris Read

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2 November 2016

Ms Debjani Ghosh
Department for Communities and Local Government
2nd Floor North East Corner Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DP

Dear Ms Ghosh

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL – PROPOSED FURTHER DIRECTIONS

Further to the letter from Alex Powell dated 19th October 2016, I write on behalf of Rotherham MBC's Cabinet and majority Group following the Department's invitation for representations on the further directions proposed by the Secretary of State.

We very much welcome the proposal received from the Secretary of State, to exercise his powers in relation to the return of responsibility for the licensing function to the authority which is an important step in our long-term improvement process. As you will be aware, elected members have been working closely with the Commissioner team since March 2015 and have successfully been exercising decision-making on a range of functions since February 2016.

I know that members of the Advisory Licensing Board have approached their work with diligence and commitment. Alongside the Commissioner, they have shown themselves to be dedicated to the safety of the travelling public.

As Leader of the Council, I see this as a significant further step forward for the Authority in restoring confidence to both central Government and the people of Rotherham that the licensing function is operating well and the Council is ready to resume responsibility. Commissioner Ney, who has led the reform of licensing in Rotherham, will continue to provide oversight after the return of the function to the Council.

Cabinet colleagues and I will continue to work with the Commissioners to restore the Council to being a fully fit for purpose authority. We remain fully committed to playing our own, democratic leadership role in this process and ensuring that evidence of improvement continues to be provided to the Secretary of State so that the Commissioners are able to recommend the return of further powers in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Read', with a horizontal line underneath.

Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

cc Alex Powell