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SKIKS	(01709) 822770	22770	Sharon Kemp

21st July 2017

Mr Alex Powell  
By email [alex.powell@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alex.powell@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Powell,

## **ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL – PROPOSED FURTHER DIRECTIONS**

Further to your letter dated 18th July 2017, I respond on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet. It is very much welcomed that after the review of evidence, the Secretary of State is proposing to return further powers to the Council in relation to performance management, asset management, human resources, waste collection and community safety. The return of these five service areas in addition to the many functions previously returned, is welcome recognition of the progress the Council has, and, continues to make.

The Council has a clear vision and priorities set out in our recently refreshed Council Plan and the new political and managerial leadership are now well established. Our 'Fresh Start' Improvement Plan set out the objectives to achieve a fully fit for purpose council with key themes of inspirational leadership, robust governance, culture of excellence and successful partnerships. This Plan has now run for two years since May 2015 with consistent and significant progress achieved.

Aspects of our improvement relevant to the functions proposed for return to the Council include quarterly corporate performance reporting to Cabinet and Commissioners, a new Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and a new Workforce Strategy. There have also been health checks of the property function (November 2016) and community safety (May 2017) which has provided evidence of improvement and the ability of the Council to exercise effective executive decision making.

We are confident that the Council is ready for the return of powers for the five specified service areas. As detailed in paragraph 13 of the Proposed Revised Intervention Package, we will continue to work with the Commissioners to ensure that they are kept informed and able to provide oversight in respect of those powers exercised by the Council. In accordance with paragraph 19, we acknowledge the requirement for enhanced Commissioner oversight in respect of domestic abuse.

In conclusion, the Council remains committed to improvement and we will continue to work constructively with the Commissioners, Government Departments, regulators and other stakeholders to deliver best value for our residents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Sharon Kemp**  
Chief Executive