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3rd August 2018

Alex Powell
Acting Director, Local Government Stewardship
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
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Dear Mr Powell

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL - PROPOSED DIRECTIONS

Further to your letter dated 23rd July 2018, I am responding in respect of the further Directions proposed by the Secretary of State.

I very much welcome the proposal of the Secretary of State to bring to end the role of the Commissioners and return all remaining functions to the Authority. This proposal reflects the continued progress the Council has made on its improvement journey as documented in the Commissioners progress reports, the Independent Health Check and Ofsted inspection earlier this year.


The Council has a clear vision and priorities set out in our refreshed Council Plan and our political and managerial leadership is now well established. Our 'Fresh Start' Improvement Plan has been fully implemented to achieve a fit for purpose council. The Authority's progress continues to be monitored as part of quarterly public corporate performance reports to Cabinet, Commissioners and the Strategic Leadership Team.

I am confident that the Council is ready for the return of all powers, having made good progress to achieve the gradual return of most powers. The Ofsted report published on 29th January confirmed that the Council was also ready to resume full powers in respect of children's safeguarding and social care.

On behalf of all at Rotherham MBC, I would like to express my thanks for the work of all the Commissioners who have served at the Authority since 2015. They have been instrumental in achieving the improvements needed at the Council and have provided a valuable oversight role. I agree that Commissioner oversight is no longer required and the Council is now ready to resume full responsibility for all functions.

The positive findings of the Independent Health Check which took place in March 2018 illustrated the progress we have made in our improvement journey. In accordance with the proposed directions, the Council will commission a further independent review of achievement and progress to report by 18 February 2018. We will ensure that the Council continues to embrace the ethos of continuous improvement to demonstrate progress against the Best Value Duty.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon Kemp
Chief Executive