



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Tony McArdle and Brian Roberts
Commissioners
Northamptonshire CC
1 Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

Simon Clarke MP
Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government

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

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3440
Email: Simon.Clarke@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

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Dear Tony, Brian,

Thank you for your sixth report addressed to the Secretary of State, setting out the ongoing progress that has been made with the intervention that you are undertaking on his behalf at Northamptonshire County Council. The Secretary of State has asked me to reply as Minister of State for Local Government.

Whilst noting the challenges faced by Northamptonshire, I was pleased to read of the continuing progress you have helped the council to make even against the background of the Covid-19 response. I was particularly encouraged to see the priorities that you have set for the council and to read that you expect them to be able to meet the challenges you have identified.

I am particularly pleased that the council has a provisional underspend of £640,000 at the end of 2019-20 and estimated reserves of £44m. As you comment this is quite a turnaround when set against the position which you found at the start of the intervention just over two years ago. I have also noted the helpful messages in your document setting out lessons learnt from the second year of the intervention.

I would welcome a conference call with you both to discuss your report in more detail. My office will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours ever,

SIMON CLARKE MP