



Ministry of Housing,
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Dear Tony, Brian,

Thank you for your fifth 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.

It is clear from your report that you have continued to work tirelessly to set a clear pathway for the new unitary authorities when they come into effect in April 2021. As you know, the government has taken the decision to postpone the local elections that were scheduled for 7 May. Steps are in place to ensure that the current plan for the new authorities to be legally established in April 2021 can proceed. Paul Rowsell will be in contact with the relevant stakeholders to discuss how this can be achieved. To be clear, my expectation is still that your roles will continue up to 31 March 2021, or sooner if appropriate.

I am particularly pleased that at the time of your report, you identified that you anticipated a £119,000 underspend in the year 2019-20. This is an extraordinary achievement particularly given the relatively short period of time in which this has been achieved.

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