



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Luke Hall MP

Minister for Local Government and Homelessness

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

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3460

Email: luke.hall@communities.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Our Ref:

October 2019

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

Dear Tony & Brian,

Thank you for your third report addressed to the Secretary of State and setting out the progress that has been made with the intervention that you are undertaking on his behalf in Northamptonshire County Council. The Secretary of State has asked me to reply as Minister of State for Local Government. Firstly, I would like to thank you for all the hard work you have done and continue to do in Northamptonshire. The speed with which you managed to turn around Northamptonshire's finances for the 2018-19 financial year is impressive.

It is clear from your report that you continue to build on the achievements to date. I do not, however, underestimate the difficulty of the challenges which still remain and which are so clearly set out in your report. I particularly note your commitment to preparing the council's services so they are ready for the establishment of the Shadow Authorities in May 2020 in advance of the changes to two unitary authorities.

I am pleased that you report that the council is demonstrating a good understanding of the issues facing them and that they are taking the difficult decisions in order to address them.

Clearly making sure that the council is in a sustainable financial position remains a priority, and I fully endorse that. I agree also with your view that enabling and supporting improvements in service delivery needs to be a priority for the next period. I fully support your work in continuing to guide the council in providing a platform on which the new authorities will be able to build a sustainable future for the people of Northamptonshire.

I would very much like to meet you both to discuss your report in detail. My office will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements,

LUKE HALL MP