



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government*

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

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Sir Tony Redmond

Dear Sir Tony

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL – IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD

I am writing in response to your recent submission of the first report from the Nottingham City Council Improvement and Assurance Board. I would like to extend my thanks to you and the Board for producing the report in such a short space of time.

I agree with your assessment that the Council have taken on board, in the main, Max Caller CBE's Rapid Review recommendations within their three-year recovery plan. Whilst the plan seeks to address the significant failings in governance, finance and commercial operations that have been identified, the scale of the challenge cannot be under-estimated and I share your concerns around it's delivery and effectiveness.

I attach a copy of the Government's response to the Council's request for Exceptional Financial Support. In it, you will note the key and continuing role that the Board will have both in supporting and challenging the Council as it seeks to make improvements and in providing assurance to me of their progress. I am already conscious of the important impact that the Board's advice has had in helping the Council to make progress.

Of course, in the event of a failure by the Council to demonstrate sufficient progress in their recovery, I will consider whether it is appropriate to use the Best Value powers available to me, including the appointment of Commissioners.

I have confidence that you will continue to scrutinise the delivery of the Council's recovery plan to ensure that they are working at pace to deliver the scale of change that is required. My officials will continue to work with you as together with the Council, you identify future deliverables and milestones for Nottingham City to keep their recovery on track. I look forward to receiving your next report in May.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP