



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald
Leader, Peterborough City Council

Via email:
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Kemi Badenoch MP
*Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling
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Dear Cllr Fitzgerald,

I am writing to inform you that I have today published the two independent reports that make up the External Assurance Review of Peterborough City Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your willingness to engage openly with the Review Team, and for your personal commitment to the Council's recovery journey. I am, however, concerned that the scale of financial challenge facing the Council is not yet fully grasped and that further steps can be taken by the Council to remedy the situation. I trust that the findings will help you to focus your Council on activity that will lead to sustainable change.

After careful consideration, I agree with Andrew Flockhart's findings that, with the right support in place, the Council should be able to respond to these challenges. I will need assurance that the Council accepts the Reviews findings and are motivated to improve the Council's financial standing. This includes the principal recommendations of agreeing a revised Medium Term Financial Strategy, producing an improvement plan, and appointing an independent Improvement and Assurance Panel. I will also be expecting to see the Council's plans relating to the recommendation of a four year "all out" electoral cycle in due course.

As such, I would ask that you set out in writing, within the next month, the steps you are taking in the immediate and longer term to respond to my Review. Any faltering in this area would be of considerable concern and could lead to a reconsideration as to whether a different approach might be appropriate to secure the improvements that are necessary.

Your response to the Review findings will help to inform my final decision on capitalisation with respect to the financial year 2021/22 and any associated conditions, as well as any future requests for financial support.

Yours sincerely,

Kemi Badenoch MP

**Minister of State for Equalities
and Levelling Up Communities**