



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Max Caller CBE
Margaret Lee
Gavin Jones
(Via email)

Paul Scully MP

*Minister of State at the Department for
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Minister for London*

***Department for Levelling Up, Housing
and Communities***

4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Our reference:

28 July 2022

Dear Max, Margaret, and Gavin,

Slough Borough Council Intervention

Thank you for your report of 9 June on the progress of the intervention in Slough Borough Council. I am grateful for the work that you are continuing to undertake at the Council to right the wrongs of the past and support the Council to achieve a sustainable footing. It is clear that the task in Slough is unparalleled, and that radical solutions may be required to ensure best value and sustainable service delivery for the residents of Slough. I remain committed to exploring the full range of options to achieve this.

Your report sets out the unprecedented scale of financial challenge in Slough resulting from severe and fundamental failings, linked to excessive borrowing and a lack of proper financial management or adherence to core accounting principles. It also puts forward a recommendation to expand the Directions to include the structure and recruitment for tiers two and three staff. Having considered the evidence, the Secretary of State will today announce that he is minded to introduce a proposed further Direction that reflects this, to help provide you with the powers required to oversee transformation. Secretary of State is inviting representations on this proposal from all interested parties by 11 August 2022.

My officials will write separately to Gavin, in his capacity as Acting Head of Paid Service, to set out the proposed amendments and invite the Authority's representations. Thank you once again for your continued work with my officials to develop a plan for Slough.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL SCULLY MP