



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Mike Cunningham CBE QPM
By email

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
*Secretary of State for Levelling UP,
Housing and Communities and Minister
for Intergovernmental Relations*

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing
and Communities**
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

8 November 2022

Dear Mike,

I would like first to thank you and your team for continuing to diligently serve as Commissioners to Liverpool City Council. Your wisdom and expertise as a team are helping Liverpool navigate the challenges it faces and set it on a stable track towards improvement. To address further failures identified in the council and support you in work, the additional Directions announced today expand the intervention and transfer all executive functions associated with finance and all non-executive powers over resourcing, governance and scrutiny of strategic decision making by the Council and direct the Council to take specific actions. I have appointed Stephen Hughes as Finance Commissioner and would like to thank Brian Roberts for his work advising the team over the last few months.

As with the Directions issued on 10 June 2021, which remain in force, I expect the Council to continue to make decisions in these areas with Commissioners stepping in by exception as and when you see fit. As per the Council's representation, which I am also publishing today, I would invite you to continue to work with them on how you intend to carry out your duties and use your powers, noting that roles may change over time.

The intervention is at a critical juncture as it approaches the halfway point. I am pleased that some progress has been made. However, it is clear significant challenges remain. More must be done to embed the desired cultural change across the organisation, strengthen governance arrangements and deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, as part of a strong, achievable Medium Term Financial Strategy. My decisions reflect the stark situation in the Council. I am keen we continue to do all that we can to support the city. In this regard I suggest that you take a particular interest over the coming months in adult social care services, housing strategy and information management including Freedom of Information performance. I would welcome an update on these issues within your next report.

Given the issuing of these new Directions today I would like to provide you with some additional time to prepare your next report, and now look forward to receiving that in early February. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do feel free to get in touch with my officials at any time.

Yours Sincerely,

RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for
Intergovernmental Relations