



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Sir Tony Redmond
By email

Lee Rowley MP
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
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It was good to meet you on 16 January to discuss the statutory intervention at Nottingham City Council and the latest progress report from the Improvement and Assurance Board. I am very grateful to you and the Board for your continued hard work overseeing Nottingham's progress on its improvement journey.

I am glad to hear that there has been a step up in progress since the escalation from non-statutory to statutory intervention in September, and that the Council is now adopting a more 'serious sense of purpose'. I note the good progress on improving decision-making processes and constitutional reform, for example. It is clear, however, there is still much to do to deliver the level of service deserved by the residents of Nottingham, as the progress tracked against your 67 requirements shows. Ultimately, the delivery of the improvement plan will prove the true test for Nottingham.

I understand you have earmarked five priority issues of critical importance, including progressing the budget setting process, addressing the residual gap of £3.2m and addressing governance and performance management issues; it is vital that the accrued momentum is not lost over the next few months, when the Council sets its budget and residents go to the polls, and that these issues are urgently addressed in the next quarter.

In the Directions issued by the former Secretary of State in September, the Council was directed to 'adopt any recommendations from the Board with respect to the Improvement Plan and its implementation'. It is paramount that Nottingham does not loosen its grip nor lose its focus on its improvement priorities over the next quarter. I am supportive of you using your powers of direction expediently and decisively if you are not satisfied with the progress being made.

I look forward to receiving your next report from which I will assess whether the exercising of further powers under the Local Government Act 1999, including the appointment of Commissioners, will be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP