



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Tony McArdle OBE
By email

Lee Rowley MP
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Local Government and Building
Safety*

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and Communities**
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16 March 2023

I am writing to you as Chair of the London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel ('the Panel') following the decision by the Secretary of State that he is minded to intervene in the London Borough of Croydon.

The Secretary of State has carefully considered the findings and evidence presented in the Panel's latest progress reports. On balance, he agrees with the Panel's latest assessment, that the acknowledged and welcome work of the new leadership has made good progress, however he has concluded, including as a result of the historic problems and the extent of improvement necessary, that the Council is not meeting its Best Value Duty.

The proposed package is centred on the Council continuing to make the necessary improvements to the satisfaction of the Improvement and Assurance Panel. The Panel will be backed by Directions issued to the Council requiring them to follow the instructions of the Panel if they are not satisfied with the progress being made.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognise the hard work of the Panel who continued to provide a valuable source of advice, expertise and challenge to the Council. Under your chairmanship, the Panel has played a critical role in helping the Council lay the foundations for its recovery. The progress that has been made to date would not have been achieved without your support and we acknowledge the constructive working relationship you have established with the Council and your understanding of the challenges it faces.

All interested parties are now invited to make representations to the Secretary of State's proposals by 30 March. Once received, all representations will be carefully considered by the Secretary of State and I in making the final decision on whether to issue directions to the London Borough of Croydon.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP
**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
BUILDING SAFETY**