



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Tony McArdle OBE
By email

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Dear Tony,

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON: INTERVENTION

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to continue to lead the London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel. This letter formally confirms your re-appointment by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to the Panel.

The Secretary of State has today made Directions under section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to the London Borough of Croydon. The Secretary of State has issued Directions that require the Council to follow the advice of the Improvement and Assurance Panel as a necessary and expedient action to secure compliance with their Best Value Duty. The Directions move the Improvement and Assurance Panel to a statutory footing so that, as Chair of the Panel, you are now empowered to instruct rather than guide the Council's improvement activities, should you and the Panel deem that to be necessary. This move reflects the confidence the Secretary of State has in the work of the Panel and the desire to build upon progress made by the Council to date.

The Secretary of State is clear that he expects significant progress to be made over the next three months, including in relation to the Council's financial performance and management, improvement of its housing service, and overall transformation and compliance with the Best Value Duty, and has asked for six monthly reports from the Panel; the first report is expected as soon as is practicable within the first three months of the intervention. The Secretary of State will take this report into consideration before again reviewing his powers under the Local Government Act 1999, including whether to appoint Commissioners.

We will reflect and revise the Panel's Terms of Reference in light of this move and the new challenges facing the Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Panel for your ongoing work in driving forward the necessary improvements to ensure that the Council will continue to effectively serve and protect the residents of Croydon.

Yours sincerely,

Max Soule
Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship