



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Simon Hoare MP
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**Department for Levelling up, Housing and
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Sir Tony Redmond
By email

13 December 2023

As Chair of the Nottingham City Council Improvement and Assurance Board ('the Board'), I must update you on the decision by the Secretary of State: he is minded to change the intervention in Nottingham City Council ('the Council').

The Secretary of State has considered carefully the findings and evidence presented in the Board's latest progress reports, and the Section 114 notice issued by the Council on 29 November 2023. We are satisfied, based on the evidence provided, that the Council is continuing to fail to comply with its best value duty. He is minded to exercise his powers under the Local Government Act 1999 to appoint Commissioners.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise formally the hard work of the Board which has provided a valuable source of advice, expertise and challenge to the Council since your appointment in January 2021. Under your chairmanship, the Board has played a critical role in helping the Council lay the foundations for its recovery and, particularly since the Board's issuing of recommendations in February this year, take a stronger grip on its immediate priorities. The 'minded to' decision to escalate this intervention is not a reflection on the effectiveness of the Board in helping the Council to drive forward the necessary improvements. Indeed, it is clear that the progress that has been made to date would not have been achieved without your support. Despite this progress, the scale of the challenges facing the Council cannot be underestimated and more difficult decisions will be required. It is for this reason the Secretary of State is minded to appoint Commissioners to oversee the Council's recovery.

All interested parties are now invited to make representations to the Secretary of State about the reports and the intervention he is proposing by 2 January 2024. Once received, the Secretary of State and I will consider carefully all the representations in making the final decision on whether to issue further Directions to the Council and appoint Commissioners. Our expectation is that the Council will continue to work with the Board to make the necessary improvements until a final decision is made.

SIMON HOARE MP