



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Commissioners  
Woking Borough Council

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Dear Jim, Carol and Mervyn,

Thank you for sending your second report on 7 December on the progress of the intervention in Woking Borough Council. Although progress has been made, your report makes clear that the most difficult phases of the Authority's recovery are yet to begin, and there is still much work to be done to ensure Woking Borough Council can again meet its best value duty independently and the Council remains in an 'extremely vulnerable position'. The report also notes that significant risk still exists in ensuring that Council functions are in line with appropriate rules, guidance and good practice.

In the short-term, tough decisions need to be made, requiring clear joined-up communication across the Council. In the longer term, innovative solutions need to be developed to tackle Woking's financial position and organisational model. With this in mind, the Secretary of State has made the decision to increase the capacity of the Commissioner team to enable focus on the long-term challenges the Council faces and has appointed a Managing Director Commissioner.

Having served as Lead Commissioner for the first six months, Jim, you have decided to step down from this role for personal reasons. We are very grateful for the part you have played in Woking's recovery, leading the review and the first stage of the intervention. As part of the expansion to the Commissioner team, the Secretary of State has nominated Sir Tony Redmond as Lead Commissioner. He will focus on finding longer-term solutions for Woking and promote a clear strategic direction.

Alongside this, the Secretary of State has nominated Richard Carr as Managing Director Commissioner. He will focus on day-to-day improvements to the running of the Authority, as well as ensuring that best practice is upheld and embedded within the organisation. We expect the Council to appoint the Managing Director Commissioner as Head of Paid Service to enable efficient working within the Authority. The Commissioner team will want to consider carefully the right time to appoint a permanent Chief Executive for the Council.

Thank you once again for your ongoing work on the intervention and your continued engagement with departmental officials. The Secretary of State and I look forward to receiving your next report. I am copying this letter to Sir Tony and Mr Carr.

**SIMON HOARE MP**