



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing
and Local Government*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Sir Tony Redmond
Richard Carr
Carol Culley
Mervyn Greer
Woking Borough Council
Commissioners
By email

6th March 2025

Dear *Sir Tony, Richard, Carol & Mervyn*

I am writing to thank you for your fourth report, and your continued dedication to Woking as it continues its journey of improvement.

I am reassured by your comments that the Council is committed to achieving the objectives you have worked with them to set, and that will radically overhaul the operation of the Council. I share your concerns about the capacity of the Council to deliver this programme of change and encourage you to work with the Council and the Ministry to consider how we can best enable the Council to improve, for the benefit of residents.

We have been clear with councils in Surrey that Commissioners have a vital role, not only in supporting Woking to continue to improve, but also in responding to the invitation to all principal authorities in Surrey to provide proposals for local government reorganisation, to ensure that proposals are robust. Given the content of your report, I am copying this response to council Leaders and Chief Executives across Surrey, together with MPs.

I have written to Carol to express my gratitude for the invaluable support she provided to the Council as Finance Commissioner. Given the ongoing financial challenges, I am minded to appoint a replacement and I am writing to the Council Leader to seek any representation on this proposal. My officials will update you on any appointment I subsequently make.

I await your next report in due course. I am also copying this letter to the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

Yours sincerely,

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government