



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

James Blythe  
*Deputy Director, Local Government  
Stewardship and Interventions*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities &  
Local Government**  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Denise Murray  
*By email*

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

27 March 2025

Dear Denise,

I am writing to confirm that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has nominated you as Finance Commissioner for the purposes and duration of the Directions made on 16 March 2023 under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to Thurrock Council. I enclose the formal nomination document.

You are nominated as Finance Commissioner for the period from 1 April 2025 to 01 September 2025.

As Commissioner you will have the roles and responsibilities set out in the Directions, a copy of which I enclose, along with a copy of an explanatory memorandum. Under the Directions, Commissioners will act jointly or severally and are accountable to the Secretary of State in that you have been nominated by her and can have your nomination withdrawn by her. I have also enclosed terms of engagement that you will need to sign and return. It is expected that this role will require a commitment from you of one to two days a week. In particular it is expected that you will focus on the financial position of the authority, ensuring that the Authority is driving forward work towards securing the Authority's long-term financial sustainability.

You will be entitled to reasonable expenses and you will be entitled to a fee for each day you act as Commissioner. It is the Council's responsibility to meet these costs and the Secretary of State has set these fees for you at £1,100 per day. Fees are payable up to a maximum of 150 days per annum, pro rata. This limit should not be exceeded without prior approval of the Secretary of State. As to reasonable expenses, we would expect these to be in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in the Authority's staff handbook.

In your role as a public appointee, it may be necessary to disclose information on your remuneration as part of annual accounts and you will be required to consent to the disclosure of this information. By accepting this appointment, you will be indicating your consent to this.

As you will be aware, the intervention in Thurrock began on 2 September 2022. The Secretary of State expects you to take an interest in matters across the Authority, beyond those functions you are exercising, given the importance of ensuring that the Authority is delivering best value in all that it does. You will play an important role in informing Ministers' response to the situation in Thurrock, including what the right medium to long term plan might be for Thurrock given the scale of the financial and wider challenges facing the Council.

In your role as a public appointee, you must act appropriately and in accordance with the required standards. You are required to uphold the standards of conduct set out in by the Seven Principles of Public Life (as amended from time to time). You will be required to demonstrate your commitment to the principles and values of public service throughout your appointment.

Your appointment has the status of an office holder and not of an employee. Nothing in this letter shall be construed as, or taken to create, a contract of service or contract for services between yourself and MHCLG, the Crown, or Thurrock Borough Council.

Should you have any queries or issues either now or during the Directions period please contact me in the first instance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for assisting in this intervention. We are very grateful for your commitment to taking up this challenge to improve the performance of Thurrock Borough Council so that it effectively serves and protects the people of the areas.

Yours sincerely,

**James Blythe**  
**Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Intervention**

**NOMINATION UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 (DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 15(6) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 TO THURROCK COUNCIL, 2025)**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of powers under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 and in accordance with the Directions to Thurrock Borough Council dated 16 March 2023 nominates Denise Murray as Finance Commissioner for the period from 1 April 2025 and ending on 1 September 2025 or such time as the Secretary of State determines.