



**Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government**

Councillor Liam Robinson  
Leader of Liverpool City Council  
*By email*

**Jim McMahon OBE MP**

*Minister of State for Local Government  
and English Devolution*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities  
and Local Government**

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

15 July 2025

Dear Liam,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 March with Liverpool City Council's progress report, and the letter from the chair of the Liverpool Improvement and Assurance Board, Mike Cunningham CBE QPM.

It is clear that your Council has continued to make significant changes, and I am very pleased to hear that there has been further progress since we met and since your last update.

I am pleased to hear that the Council has benefitted from a strong and effective leadership and are making improvements to Council services on behalf of residents. The Council's proactive engagement is creating more opportunities for local residents and fostering stronger partnerships with other authorities, including the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and other government bodies.

I recognise that you have now concluded the support from the Improvement and Assurance Board. I am pleased to hear your and the Board Chair's view that the Council is now able to lead its own recovery, continue to drive continuous improvement, and respond to future challenges.

Over the next 12 months I support your focus to embed and sustain the progress you have made, and share your desire for faster progress in the challenging legacy areas, particularly in relation to council tax collection, housing and property management, which have historically experienced progress at a slower pace. I welcome your establishment of the Improvement Committee, and would recommend you also seek some independent, external strategic support and challenge as part of that Committee, as well as maintaining your dialogue with the Local Government Association. I think such external peer support would facilitate the Council to maintain and embed improvements, help to focus on areas identified as more challenging, support the Council's resilience, and continue to improve outcomes for your residents.

I am also content to end the level of departmental support provided since June 2024. Given the range of challenges which remain as you continue the journey of improvement, and my own commitment to doing all I can to support the city and the Council, I would like to stay close to developments in the coming months, and to keep the level of change and pace under review. I have asked my officials to provide Andrew

Lewis with a departmental single point of contact, and for officials to meet your officers periodically over the next 12 months, as well as continue to review the Council's metrics as part of our ongoing stewardship work. We have found this can be effective for both parties as departmental involvement is stepped down, and means we can step up our support quickly if necessary.

Although I no longer expect to receive formal progress reports from you, my door is always open should you wish to contact me.

You have demonstrated that the Council is committed and able to drive the improvements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership together with your colleagues in Liverpool, and the Improvement and Assurance Board for all your hard work and dedication. But I also want to acknowledge the strong personal leadership and commitment to public service you have shown, and that of your colleagues, working with Commissioners and latterly the Board, which has undoubtably been the driving force in transforming the Council. We very much share your interest in ensuring the best possible Council services for the people of Liverpool and I look forward to seeing how your journey continues.

I have copied this letter to your Council's Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer, the former Chair of the Liverpool Improvement and Assurance Board; and I will write separately to the Liverpool City Region Mayor and to Liverpool MPs. In the interests of transparency, a copy of this letter will be published on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

**JIM MCMAHON OBE MP**

Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution