



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

Sir Tony Redmond  
Richard Carr  
Barry Scarr  
Mervyn Greer

**Alison McGovern MP**  
*Minister of State for Local  
Government and Homelessness*

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

11 December 2025

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you that I have today published your fifth report, together with this letter to you. I would like to confirm that I have reappointed Sir Tony Redmond as Lead Commissioner and Richard Carr as Managing Director Commissioner. As you are aware, in October I also reappointed Barry Scarr as Finance Commissioner, and I thank all Commissioners for their continued hard work and dedication to Woking and its improvement journey.

I welcome Commissioners' assessment that the Council remains committed to delivering the Improvement and Recovery Plan and that progress continues to be made across governance, housing, and commercial restructuring. I am particularly encouraged by the Council's successful setting of the 2025/26 budget. I also share their concerns about the significant challenges that the Council faces, and I support their continued focus on ensuring that the Council has the capability and capacity it needs to deliver the necessary changes at pace.

As you rightly highlight, the context of local government reorganisation in Surrey adds further urgency and complexity to your work. I welcome, in your next report, your reflections on the local government reorganisation process, including how Government can best support new councils in meeting their Best Value duty from day one and raising any urgent issues that you are aware of and fall outside of your remit as Commissioners to solve.

I am grateful for your continued dedication to Woking as its improvement journey progresses, and look forward to receiving your next report in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

**ALISON MCGOVERN MP**

**Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness**