



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP**  
*Secretary of State for Housing,  
Communities & Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL,  
Pam Parkes and  
Shokat Lal

By email

17 March 2026

Dear Kim, Pam and Shokat,

I wrote to you on 19 January setting out my concerns that a year into the statutory intervention in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the Council was not making sufficient progress. I was concerned that the Council had not understood the severity of its situation or moved beyond planning into action and impact, and that the Council was not sufficiently mindful of its own position. I also considered that the evidence amounted to new failure of the Council to comply with its Best Value Duty in relation to its Use of Resources. I therefore proposed a strengthened version of the intervention package to accelerate the required improvement work, centred around increasing your capacity and available powers.

Thank you for your second progress report, which I am publishing today, together with this response. Having carefully considered the relevant materials, including the representations and your report, I have today made a Written Ministerial Statement which confirms to Parliament my view that the Council is not yet making sufficient progress or demonstrating the required level of leadership grip, and is additionally failing to comply with the Best Value Duty in relation to its Use of Resources. I have therefore issued new Directions which come into effect immediately, to strengthen and expand the current intervention. The revised package implemented by the Directions is in line with my earlier proposal with some minor amendments. The Explanatory Memorandum to the Directions provides further information on the package and the reasons for the exercise of the powers and both the Explanatory Memorandum and the Directions will be published on gov.uk.

I would like to thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to Tower Hamlets and its improvement journey. Your latest progress report is clear that despite progress in some areas, including the Council's engagement with its partners, the delivery of a staff survey and development of a more mature Continuous Improvement Plan, the overall pace of change and grip of the Council leadership to drive improvement is insufficient. The scale of the challenge is significant, and I welcome the clear steps you have set out for the work the Council needs to undertake in the coming months to drive forward change.

I agree wholeheartedly with your assertion that the political and officer leadership play a crucial role in delivering change, indeed, that change is not possible without their commitment, grip and ownership of the issues. I have been clear to the Council's leadership on my expectations and empower you to hold them to account for their actions.

I am grateful for your continued dedication to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and welcomed the recent conversation between the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness, you and the Council, to ensure a clear and shared understanding of what we expect in this new phase of intervention.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP**

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government