



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP
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2 Marsham Street
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Harry Catherall
Carolyn Williamson
Phil Brookes
Cllr Steve Houghton
By Email

Your reference:
Our reference:

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Dear Ministerial Envoys,

I am writing to inform you that I have today published your first report, together with this response. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued work and the support you are providing to Warrington Borough Council.

It is encouraging that your guidance and oversight have been welcomed by the Council. I am pleased to note early progress, including the adoption of an Improvement and Recovery Plan, key leadership appointments, and the initial steps to strengthen governance arrangements including the establishment of a Joint Leadership Group. These developments are laying the early foundations for the Council's improvement journey.

I also note the good progress made in understanding the Council's financial position. Your report presents a sobering picture, including a substantial structural deficit, major commercial liabilities, and a four-year budget gap of £130 million. Sustained focus on the actions in the Improvement and Recovery Plan, supported by the necessary transformation needed to deliver them, will be vital to strengthening the Council's financial sustainability.

It is clear that significant challenges remain. I look forward to receiving your next report, once key appointments at the Council are more established and continued progress has been made in delivering the improvement actions. By that time, I expect the leadership will have further strengthened its capacity to lead the recovery work, while continuing to work closely with the Envoys.

Yours ever,

ALISON MCGOVERN MP
Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness