



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP

*Minister of State for Local Government
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2 Marsham Street
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Sir Tony Redmond
Richard Carr
Mervyn Greer
Barry Scarr
By email

15 July 2026

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you that I have published your report, together with this letter.

I welcome the substantial progress you have identified, including improvements in governance, financial administration and organisational arrangements, alongside more stable financial management and sustainable systems.

Your report also highlights the significant challenges that remain, particularly the scale and complexity of the commercial programme, and the asset disposal programme. I agree that maintaining pace in the final phase of the intervention and ensuring these risks are effectively managed through transition will be critical.

Your findings reinforce the need for a more integrated approach to risks across Woking and Spelthorne. I have therefore decided to establish a single commissioner team across both Councils. The team will be led by Lesley Seary, supported by Barry Scarr, Deborah McLaughlin and Mervyn Greer.

As part of these changes, Sir Tony Redmond will step down from his Commissioner role and Richard Carr will transition from his Commissioner role but continue playing an important role in supporting the Council's transition towards LGR and improvement as its interim Chief Executive. I would like share my sincere thanks to Sir Tony and Richard for their leadership and significant contribution to Woking's stabilisation and improvement.

The purpose of the intervention remains unchanged. Commissioners will continue to provide support, challenge and independent assurance on the Council's remaining priorities and the transition to West Surrey.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment.

Yours ever,

ALISON MCGOVERN MP

Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness