



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP

*Minister of State for Local Government
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Lesley Seary
Peter Robinson
Mervyn Greer
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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 progress you have identified, including improvements to the Improvement and Recovery Plan, strengthened governance arrangements, increased senior capacity, and progress on the Council's commercial programme, housing priorities and financial reporting.

Your report also highlights the significant challenges that remain, particularly financial sustainability, continued reliance on reserves, risks within the commercial portfolio, and capacity pressures. I agree that maintaining pace in the final phase of the intervention and managing these risks through transition will be critical.

Your findings reinforce the need for a more integrated approach to risks across Spelthorne and Woking. 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, Peter Robinson will step down from his commissioner role. I would like to share my sincere thanks for his contribution to the Council's improvement and stabilisation.

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