



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Dr Dave Smith
Via email

James Blythe ACMA
*Deputy Director, Local
Government Stewardship and
Interventions*

**Ministry of Housing,
Communities & Local
Government**
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/mhclg

17 August 2026

Dear Dave,

I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has nominated you as Managing Director Commissioner for the purposes of the Directions issued on under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to Slough Borough Council.

You are nominated as Managing Director Commissioner until 30 November 2026. As Managing Director Commissioner, you will have the roles and responsibilities set out in the Directions, a copy of which I enclose along with a copy of the Explanatory Memorandum. Under the Directions, you are accountable to the Secretary of State in that you have been nominated by them and can have your nomination withdrawn by them. I have also enclosed terms of engagement that you will need to sign and return.

It is expected that, as Managing Director Commissioner, you will fulfil a role equivalent to that of a Chief Executive for the Authority, with responsibility for its day to day operations. You will set clear direction on governance, decision-making and financial sustainability, supporting the Council to embed effective and last improvements. You will also support the Council to establish a sustainable Corporate Leadership Team, including shaping an approach to senior recruitment that reflects the findings of the External Review and strengthens long-term leadership capacity.

You will be entitled to a fee for each day you act as Managing Director Commissioner. You will also be entitled to reasonable expenses. Under the terms of Directions, it is the Council's responsibility to meet these costs, and these fees are set at £1,100 per day. Fees are payable up to a maximum of 260 days per annum for each year. These limits should not be exceeded without prior approval of the Secretary of State. As to reasonable expenses, we would expect these to be in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in the Council's staff handbook.

In your role as public appointee, it may be necessary to disclose information on your remuneration as part of annual accounts and you will be required to consent to the disclosure of this information. By accepting this appointment, you will be indicating your consent to this.

You will wish to note that the Secretary of State has asked that you and your fellow Commissioners provide an update at six-monthly intervals – or at any other time deemed necessary by the Secretary of State.

You are required to exercise care in the use of information that you acquire in the course of your duties and to protect information that is held in confidence. You must declare any personal or business interests which, or may be perceived to, influence your judgement in performing your functions. These interests may include (without limitation), personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests, and any such interests of your close family members and/or of people living in the same household as you and your close family members.

Your appointment has the status of an office holder and not of an employee. Nothing in this letter shall be construed as, or taken to create a contract of service or contract for service between yourself and MHCLG, the Crown, or the Council.

Should you have any queries or issues please contact me in the first instance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for assisting in this intervention. We are very grateful for your commitment to taking up this challenge to improve the performance of Slough Borough Council so that it effectively serves and protects the people of the area.

Yours sincerely

James Blythe

Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Intervention

NOMINATION UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 (DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 15(5) AND (6) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 TO SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL, 2026)

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in exercise of their powers under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 and in accordance with the Directions to Slough Borough Council dated 20 November 2024 nominates Dr Dave Smith as Commissioner until 30 November 2026 beginning on 17 August 2026.