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13 December 2023

## **Nottingham City Council responds to Government proposal to appoint Commissioners**

We write to inform you that earlier today a Ministerial Statement was made to Parliament and a letter has been received by the Chief Executive advising that the Secretary of State is 'minded to' appoint Commissioners to oversee the council following the latest progress reports from the Improvement and Assurance Board and the Section 114 Report issued by the council's Chief Finance Officer on 29 November 2023.

The [letter is available here](#) and has very significant implications for the council.

It says that while the council has made efforts to address the Instructions issued by the Board in February this year, the Board's latest assessment is that the authority is not acting at the required pace, particularly in addressing weaknesses in finance, transformation and the underlying culture of the organisation in respect to governance and the workforce.

As a result, the Secretary of State is considering exercising the powers of direction in the 1999 Act in relation to securing the council's compliance with the best value duty. He is proposing to implement a package of measures through appropriate Directions and is minded to appoint three Commissioners, including a Lead Commissioner, a Commissioner for finance and a Commissioner for transformation, subject to representations received.

The council has been invited to make representations to the Secretary of State before a final decision is made about the proposal. However, if it is confirmed, officers and

Councillors will work alongside Commissioners in the areas designated by the Secretary of State.

Notwithstanding this, it is open to all stakeholders, singly or collectively, to make a representation to the proposed statutory intervention package and we wish to bring this to your attention. All such representations should be sent by email to [interventions@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:interventions@levellingup.gov.uk) so as to be received on or before Tuesday 2 January 2024. Representations made may be published by the Government at a later date.

In the event that the intervention package is confirmed, we will work with colleagues to establish the necessary working arrangements and protocols for working with the Commissioners.

Whilst writing, your attention is drawn to a report to the council's Executive Board on 19 December 2023 which sets out a range of initial proposals to make the savings needed to close the council's budget gap and balance the budget for 2024/25. A full list of proposals can be viewed with the report [here](#).

In order to bridge the £50 million budget gap faced, officers have put forward proposals for consideration by Councillors, which will then be followed by public consultation which we would invite you to take part in once the consultation has been launched on 19 December 2023.

As a valued partner organisation, we would like to thank you for your continued support during this period and your commitment in continuing to deliver vital services for our communities.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us. In addition, should any of your colleagues wish to discuss the implications of the council's position please assure them that they are welcome to contact the council's Corporate Director colleagues with whom they usually liaise.

You can find more information and our FAQs [here](#) which we will continue to update.

Yours sincerely



**Melbourne Barrett**  
Chief Executive  
Nottingham City Council



**Cllr David Mellen**  
Leader of the Council  
Nottingham City Council