



Nottingham

City Council

**Chief Executive's Office
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www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

22 February 2024

Government announces Commissioners for Nottingham City Council

We are writing to you following the written statement made to Parliament earlier today confirming that Commissioners are to be appointed for Nottingham City Council.

In a letter received by the Chief Executive, available to read [here](#), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has confirmed that the Secretary of State, after considering representations and all other developments since his 'minded to' proposals, has decided to appoint Commissioners.

The Lead Commissioner for Nottingham will be Tony McArdle OBE who was previously Lead Commissioner at the former Northamptonshire County Council and is currently Chair of the London Borough of Croydon Improvement and Assurance Panel. He will be supported by Margaret Lee as Commissioner for Finance, with the intention that a Commissioner for transformation will be nominated in due course.

The Commissioners have been granted extensive powers and will oversee the full range of the council's improvement activities, including strategies to secure the medium and long term financial sustainability of the council and plans to transform front line services.

The appointment of Commissioners replaces the Improvement and Assurance Board with immediate effect, although the Commissioners will be able to draw on the input of Sir Tony Redmond and former Improvement and Assurance Board members as they see fit.

As you will know, major pressures affecting local government nationally, including the cost of increased demand for children's and adults' social care and rising homelessness presentations, have led to a £23 million overspend in 2023/24 and the need to request Exceptional Financial Support from government in the form of capitalisation which allows the council to use capital receipts from asset sales to meet ongoing revenue costs as a short term measure.



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In addition, an extensive budget savings package which will have a significant impact on local services is due to be decided by councillors at a meeting of the City Council scheduled for 4 March 2024.

The council is committed to working in collaboration with the Commissioners to continue our improvement journey at pace, reshaping the organisation to put the authority on a stable financial footing, while delivering essential services for Nottingham residents within the resources that we have. Our wider transformation work is already well under way and the expert input and challenge from the Commissioners will be invaluable to our officers and councillors as they look to accelerate that process further.

As a valued partner organisation, we are committed to keeping you informed and engaged and thank you for your continued support.

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

In addition, should any of your colleagues require further information they are welcome to contact the Corporate Director with whom they usually liaise to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely



Melbourne Barrett
Chief Executive
Nottingham City Council



Cllr David Mellen
Leader of the Council
Nottingham City Council