



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Mike Cunningham CBE QPM
Joanna Killian
Neil Gibson
Deborah McLaughlin
Stephen Hughes
By email

Simon Hoare MP
Minister for Local Government

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**
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7 March 2024

Dear Mike, Joanna, Neil, Deborah and Stephen,

I would like to thank you for the continued work as Commissioners in Liverpool City Council.

Following the announcement on 13 December 2023, today I have announced that the Secretary of State has taken his final decision and announced a change of scope of the intervention. He has published new Directions, an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum on gov.uk and revoked the 2021 and 2022 Directions.

To signal and support a phased transition towards the end of the Liverpool intervention, the appointments function at tiers 1 – 3 will be returned to the Council immediately. The highways and section 151 finance functions will be returned to the Council on 31 March 2024. As Commissioners, you will continue to have oversight of improvements in financial processes through additional Directions to the Council, and in highways and transport through the corporate Directions. You will also retain the appointment function over appointments for the directors of property, HR/OD and statutory officers. Further Directions have also been issued to address concerns raised in your report, including property services and certain corporate functions such as risk management and culture change.

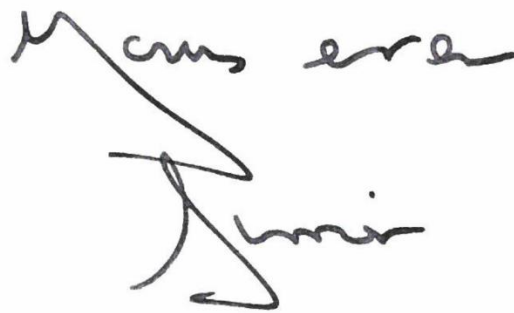
The Secretary of State has decided to remove Directions to the Council that Commissioners have confirmed have been met and to revoke the Directions issued on 10 June 2021 and 8 November 2022. Outstanding actions have been retained in the new Directions issued today, and as Commissioners, you will continue to exercise functions relating to governance, regeneration, property management and specified appointments.

As per the Council's representation, which I am also publishing today, I invite you to continue to work collaboratively with them on how you intend to carry out your duties and determine your priorities in the areas of focus. That will provide you with the assurance that the Council's improvements are well set and sustainable, noting that over this next phase of the intervention, your involvement and presence will likely reduce.

I note that the Council has continued to make further progress since your report and issued a letter to the Council regarding concerns within property services. I understand that the Council will need to demonstrate a stable and well-set positive improvement trajectory before the intervention concludes and your current view is that more time is still needed to observe this. As mentioned in my last letter to you, over this phase of the intervention, I would like to see the Council continue to fill vacancies in important areas, such as the monitoring officer role, and that children's social care services improvements are prioritised and ensure that the right resources and corporate support is in place for improvements to be made at pace.

Finally, I would also like to thank Joanna Killian for her invaluable contribution to the Liverpool intervention over the years and I wish her all the best and much happiness at the Local Government Association.

I look forward to receiving your final report in March. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do feel free to get in touch with my officials at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Hoare', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SIMON HOARE MP
Minister for Local Government