



Ministry of Housing,
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Lesley Seary
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By email

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you that I have today published your first report, together with this response. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued work and the support you are providing to Spelthorne Borough Council.

I am pleased to see the progress made to date, including the adoption of an Improvement and Recovery Plan, the restructuring of debt and implementation of a new Minimum Revenue Provision policy. These steps are critical to improving the Council's financial sustainability ahead of Surrey's local government reorganisation in April 2027. Thank you for setting out the actions you plan to take in the months ahead. I am supportive of your efforts to drive forward this work, and I appreciate the scale of challenge that remains at the Council, in response to which you are seeking measurable improvement through the work set out in the Improvement and Recovery Plan, including significant culture change. Delivering these measures will be essential to ensuring stability and readiness for the changes ahead and I am confident that your approach will help put the Council on stronger footing for the future.

As you rightly highlight, the context of local government reorganisation in Surrey adds further urgency and complexity to your work. I welcome, in your next report, your reflections on the local government reorganisation process, including how Government can best support new councils in meeting their Best Value Duty from day one. I also welcome you raising any urgent issues that you are aware of that fall outside of your remit as Commissioners to solve.

I am grateful for your continued dedication to Spelthorne as its improvement journey progresses, and look forward to receiving your next report in due course.

Yours ever,

ALISON MCGOVERN MP
Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness