



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

John Crabtree  
Chair, Birmingham Independent Improvement  
Panel

**The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**  
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D. John.

Thank you for your letter of 9th November, in which you set out the Panel's view on progress by Birmingham City Council against the Kerslake recommendations.

I share your concerns about the pace of change and scale of the challenges which the Council continues to face. I know the Council understands the importance of dealing with its financial situation in order to deliver effective services for its residents. I would encourage the Council to ensure that robust arrangements are in place to secure the improvements needed.

As you recommend, I would like you and colleagues on the Panel to continue to support the Council's improvement over the coming months, as it puts in place the plans to deliver its budget for 2017/18. I would hope to see considerable progress over this time.

I agree there should be an independent review of the Council's budget and plans. I encourage you, the Council and my officials to work together to specify terms of reference. As you suggest, I would welcome a further report from the Panel once the review is completed, in February.

Please continue to work closely with my officials, and let me know if there are any issues of which you think I should be aware before your next report.

With thanks to you and your colleagues for undertaking this important work.

**THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**