



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Clive Heaphy  
Chief Executive  
Middlesbrough Council  
By email

**Max Soule**  
*Deputy Director, Local  
Government  
Stewardship and  
Intervention*

**Ministry for Housing,  
Communities and Local  
Government**

4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

30 July 2024

Dear Clive,

The Department issued a revised Best Value Notice to Middlesbrough Council on 30 January 2024 as a formal notification that the Department has ongoing concerns regarding the Authority and requesting that the Authority engages with the Department to provide further assurance of improvement. Thank you for your constructive engagement with the Department since then.

I am writing to let you know that ministers will shortly confirm their decision on next steps regarding the Best Value Notice, based on the available evidence. As set out on 30 January, should the Department deem it necessary to continue to seek assurance through such a Notice, the Notice will be reissued.

I will be in touch regarding next steps in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Max Soule  
Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Intervention