



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Councillor Ayesha Azad  
Leader, Woking Borough Council  
By email

**Luke Hall MP**

*Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government**

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[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

15 July 2021

*Dear Cllr Azad,*

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

I am writing in relation to Woking Council's request for exceptional financial support in respect of 2020/21 and 2021/22. I appreciate your continued co-operation with my Department throughout this process, and that of your officers.

The Secretary of State has now fully considered the request and this letter sets out his current position.

With respect to the financial years of 2020/21 and 2021/22, the Secretary of State has made the decision not to provide a capitalisation direction of £12.4 million to the Council as requested. The Council's request has been assessed against the principles of the scheme, and this decision reflects the Department's assessment of your overall financial position, including your current levels of reserves.

The Secretary of State understands that, while the Council is not facing an immediate unmanageable cost pressure, you believe that the Council may face pressures over the medium term. Our assessment based on the information the Council has provided, is that there are a range of actions that the Council could take to help manage its financial position in coming years and to move towards a more sustainable financial position, for example, a review of the Council's capital programme. Given this, he does not believe that there is a case for providing exceptional financial support to Woking at this point.

We are of course happy to continue to engage with the Council on these issues, and I understand that a meeting was held with the Department and your officers to discuss the position on 13 July.

**LUKE HALL MP**