

Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing & Communities
 Department for Levelling up, Housing & Communities
 2 Marsham Street
 London
 SW1P 4DF

20 December 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Since you appointed Essex County Council as Finance Commissioner at Thurrock Council in September 2022, we have worked together closely to understand the scale of the Council's financial issues.

This work has exposed significant investment impairments, debt costs, loss of investment income and service revenue pressures. We are putting in place plans to reduce deficits through debt reduction, divestment of the commercial portfolio, disposal of property assets, tax increases and other substantial service savings. Despite this, it is clear that the Council has a large in-year deficit that it is not possible to balance and is unable to set a balanced budget for next year without assistance. A s114 notice was issued on the 19th December 2022.

We are therefore making a request for Exceptional Financial Support. The final figure of the request will be available in the new year, however, based on our current understanding of the financial position, we are able to give indicative totals of £452m in 2022/23 and £184m in 2023/24.

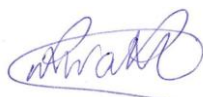
As these figures are provisional and we will continue to engage with your officials to ensure they have the most accurate figures in the lead up to the setting of the Council's budget.

We want to assure you we are exploring all options within our control to both raise income and reduce expenditure, these will go a long way to materially reduce the deficit by 2028/29. However, it is now clear that the scale of the issue at Thurrock Council is so profound that the levers currently available to the Council are not sufficient to achieve financial sustainability, even over a long term period and we will continue to discuss creative options with your officials.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Mark Coxshall
Leader
Thurrock Council



Ian Wake
Acting Chief Executive
Thurrock Council



Nicole Wood
ECC Commissioner