

Slough Borough Council Best Value Commissioners

Letter to Steven Mair S151 Officer SBC

Commissioner's Instruction no 1

Dear Steve,

Instruction under powers provided by the Best Value Directions

As you know, the current Directions imposed on Slough Borough Council contain provisions to enable Commissioners to intervene in matters relating to the approved budget.

Commissioners are aware that there are corporate budgets which now provide more resources than was anticipated when the budget was set. I am writing to require that no action is taken to allocate any of these unplanned additional resources to services unless specifically agreed by Commissioners.

It may be that towards the year end it would be appropriate to use this money to offset increases in energy costs which are running far above predicted levels and potentially to offset national pay awards that are agreed above provision but only to the extent that it supports increased payments to permanent directly employed staff in post and not temporary, agency or contract staff.

Commissioners remain concerned that the council, at service level, is forecasting overspends in year with no sign of mitigating savings being created and that the forecast budget gap for next year is not covered by deliverable proposals. Acceleration in the delivery of capital receipts is not a tool to close this gap as this needs to be used to reduce the overall time and amount that Slough requires government support, and this also does nothing to reduce the base expenditure requirements to affordable levels.

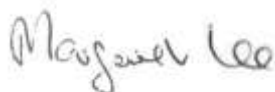
This Instruction will be published on the SBC Commissioners web pages, and you may also want to report it to Cabinet.

Commissioners will keep this matter under review and will update this Instruction as appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Max Caller CBE
Lead Commissioner



Margaret Lee FCPFA
Finance Commissioner