



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Councillor Stephen Holt
Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council

By email

Lee Rowley MP
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State
for Local Government and Building
Safety*

**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing and Communities**
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4 August 2023

Dear Councillor Holt,

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL EXTERNAL ASSURANCE REVIEW

I am writing to share with you the external finance progress review of Eastbourne Borough Council carried out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

I am grateful for yours and your predecessor's willingness to engage openly with the review team and the assistance of your officers in providing information to CIPFA to support the review.

The report sets out the positive progress that Eastbourne Borough Council has made to becoming more financially sustainable since its previous assurance review in 2021. However, the report also sets out some sensible recommendations for addressing the challenges the council is facing, in particular setting out objectives on tourism, income and economic diversification in an overarching strategy and continuing to review and refresh the council's Recovery and Stabilisation Plan to ensure its ongoing relevance and adaptation to changing priorities. It is important that the Council responds to these recommendations accordingly.

I trust that the report and its findings will be helpful in focusing your Council on the continued positive trajectory to financial sustainability. I assume that you will share the report with relevant interested parties within your Council.

Departmental officials will be in touch with officers at the Council shortly to discuss arrangements for providing assurance on the effective implementation of the recommendations set out in the review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered on the page.

LEE ROWLEY MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Local Government and Building Safety