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SK/LH	(01709) 822770	22770	Sharon Kemp

18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Mr Alex Powell  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Via email: [Alex.Powell@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alex.Powell@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Alex

Further to the last directions issued in September 2018, I attach as requested a copy of the independent review requested by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities which assesses progress since the removal of Commissioners. This review as you are aware was conducted by the previous Commissioners along with a representative from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Programme.

The review highlights that the progress made since September has surpassed the expectations of the former Commissioners and that the Council has regained its moral compass. We are obviously pleased that the review confirms the progress made and makes clear the Council remains committed to its continuous improvement. The Council acknowledges the challenges identified with regard to the delivery of the medium term financial plan and the performance against targets and it is good to see the review recognises the Member and Officer Leadership and is reassured that the Council can deliver on these.

If you require any further information please do contact me and I look forward from hearing from you further to the receipt of the report.

Yours sincerely



**Sharon Kemp**  
Chief Executive