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**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

18 January 2018

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to inform you that the Committee on Standards in Public Life has decided to undertake a review of local government standards.

The Committee has had a long-standing interest in local government standards: it was the subject of the Committee's Third Report in 1997, and the Committee has considered the issue on a number of occasions since, in response to legislative and institutional changes.

We will launch the review at the end of this month and aim to report by the end of the year.

I enclose a copy of the terms of reference for this review for your information.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Bew
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

Terms of reference

The terms of reference for the review are to:

1. Examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
 - a. Maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors;
 - b. Investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process;
 - c. Enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct;
 - d. Declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest; and
 - e. Whistleblowing.
2. Assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government;
3. Make any recommendations for how they can be improved; and
4. Note any evidence of intimidation of councillors, and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation.

The review will consider all levels of local government in England, including town and parish councils, principal authorities, combined authorities (including Metro Mayors) and the Greater London Authority (including the Mayor of London).