



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
Homelessness*

2 Marsham Street
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Our reference: MC2026/17245

Shelley Kipling
Chief Executive
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29 June 2026

Dear Shelley,

Thank you for your email of 17 June to the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, regarding two Council Motions from your meeting on 10 December 2025 in relation to funding and standards of conduct in local government. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Regarding the Council Motion on Fair Funding for Local Government, as you note, we are committed to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government and delivering a system that is fair, transparent, and better reflects local need.

As a result of the reforms, nine in ten councils will receive funding that broadly matches their assessed need by the end of the multi-year Settlement, up from around a third before our reforms.

The Government recognises the significant pressures that councils face and we are investing in local government. The final 2026-27 Local Government Finance Settlement made available £78 billion in Core Spending Power for local authorities in England in 2026-27, a 6.1% increase compared to 2025-26.

We are also giving local authorities greater flexibility and certainty by streamlining over 38 funding streams worth over £57 billion over three years and driving the biggest transformation of children's social care in a generation with the Families First Partnership programme - backed by nearly £3 billion investment over four years, including a historic £2.4 billion over this multi-year Settlement.

I also recognise the importance you place on certainty for local authorities. The move to multi-year settlements is intended to provide greater stability and enable councils to plan effectively over the longer term, supporting sustainable service delivery for local communities.

Turning to the Council Motion on Strengthening Standards and Restoring Confidence in Local Democracy, we welcome your support in championing these proposed reforms. The reforms aim to ensure misconduct is dealt with swiftly and fairly across the country in every type and tier of local government - from the smallest town or parish council to the largest mayoral authority. We want to ensure that local government is empowered, fully accountable and deserving of people's trust and confidence.

Due to pressures on the wider legislative programme for the forthcoming Parliamentary session, there is not capacity for a dedicated Bill at this time. This does not represent a change in the Government's commitment to improving standards and conduct arrangements in local government.

The Government's position remains as set out in the published response to the consultation in November 2025. We intend to legislate when Parliamentary time allows.

Thank you again for writing on these important issues.

Yours sincerely,



ALISON MCGOVERN MP

Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness