

**Room G.07
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ**

**Mayor Jason Perry
Executive Mayor of Croydon
Mayor's Office
12th Floor
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon
CR0 1EA**

**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

Sent by email: Mayor@croydon.gov.uk

4 April 2023

Dear Mr Mayor,

Thank you for your letter of 30 March about accountability in local government and for taking the time to write on this serious subject.

You will be aware that we published our report, [Local Government Ethical Standards](#), in 2019. In that report we discussed how a lack of understanding and appreciation of governance processes can lead to corporate failure by councils.

We aimed in our report to produce a balanced, considered package of recommendations to strengthen the arrangements in place in local government for upholding high standards, whilst respecting the benefits of a localised approach. We were very disappointed that the government decided not to implement our recommendations. Whilst we are not actively reviewing local government at the moment, and we are not a campaigning organisation, we are doing what we can to make the case for the reform we recommended. We have, for example, published our own update on councils adopting our best practice recommendations, and I have spoken at local government events and raised my concerns in writing with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Leadership is crucial to high standards in public life. Our 2019 report discussed the importance of leadership in embedding an ethical culture in local authorities. You may also be interested in our recent report, [Leading in Practice](#), published this year, which looked at how a range of organisations in the public, private and charity sectors have approached building a working environment that supports and encourages people to live up to the ethical values reflected in the Principles of Public Life.

Yours,



Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life