

'LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS' A REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

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SUMMARY

On 19 January 2019, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) published a report and recommendations on ethical standards in local government, following a year-long review and wide consultation.

The Executive Summary and recommendations are attached at Appendix A for Members' information. The full report may be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-ethical-standards>.

The key recommendations of the report include:

- a new power for local authorities to suspend councillors without allowances for up to six months
- revised rules on declaring interests, gifts and hospitality
- local authorities retain ownership of their own Codes of Conduct
- a right of appeal for suspended councillors to the Local Government Ombudsman
- a strengthened role for the Independent Person
- greater transparency about the number and nature of Code complaints.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

INFORMATION

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in England. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders. The CSPL is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Cabinet Office.