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BY E-MAIL
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Dear Sir/Madam

The Standards Board for England supports the government's commitment to looking for ways to give people locally more influence, control and ownership of local services.

The Standards Board welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this debate on forging more influence, control and ownership by local people for the benefit of local democracy and improving public services and local areas. While these factors are inextricably linked, we would like provide our feedback on the areas of encouraging active citizenship, reviving civic society and local democracy and strengthening local accountability. Please find our feedback enclosed.

We believe exemplary, ethical standards help build confidence in local democracy, and play a role in encouraging a more active citizenship. Developing public services that are truly able to respond to local need is dependent on citizen engagement. Trust and confidence in local democracy is key to achieving fuller engagement and therefore it is essential that those involved in local government behave in a manner that sets an example, particularly since at a local level, inevitably, the impact of poor behaviour is at its greatest. Good ethical governance should be designed into our system of local government and also promoted to the public.

I hope that you find our comments both constructive and useful. I would be glad to talk through further any of the points we have raised here.

Yours sincerely

David Prince
Chief Executive