Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

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Sharon Kemp OBE

Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE

By Email

25 November 2026

Dear both,

I am writing to inform you that I have today published your first report together with my response. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued work and support provided to Nottingham City Council.

We are encouraged to hear that the Council continues to build upon the progress made during the Commissioner appointments. The improvements made to the Council's governance functions, risk management and internal audit, and scrutiny functions are particularly welcomed. I also recognise the improvements to the housing service, and the prioritisation by the Council to improve the Adults Social Care and Children's Services delivery.

However, I share your concerns regarding the deterioration of the behaviour of some members and the subsequent impact on member-officer relationships and wider cultural issues. The restoration of co-operation, trust and professional relationships must become a priority for the Council. Without the improvement of these behaviours, there is a risk that progress will be inhibited, and the wider improvement journey undermined. I expect the Council to engage collaboratively with you for your expert support, and with sector-led support to demonstrate a commitment to cultural and continuous improvement.

I will continue to look to you for assurance that these issues are being addressed with the urgency they require.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government