



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dame Sarah Healey DCB CVO
Permanent Secretary

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Launch of the Local Government Outcomes Framework

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Following the Public Account Committee's hearing on Local Government Financial Sustainability on 3 April, I wrote to the Committee on 16 April to provide further information on National Insurance Contributions, local elections and local audit. Further to the Committee's recommendations, I am writing now to further update the Committee on the Government's drive to establish outcomes-based accountability for local government, which was also discussed at the hearing in April.

The Deputy Prime Minister is today announcing a further step in improving how national and local government work together, by launching the Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF).

The Framework sets 15 priority outcomes that central government wants to work with local government on to deliver key national priorities, ranging from preventing homelessness and rough sleeping to community safety and satisfaction. These will be underpinned by outcome metrics drawing from existing data sources to show how progress will be measured. A limited number of outputs have been included where needed to isolate local authority contributions towards delivery or to act as a proxy in the absence of suitable data, but the aim is to eventually move away from these as the Framework continues to evolve to provide maximum local flexibility.

This approach is designed to support a move away from hundreds of ringfenced grants and siloed priorities, and better joint working between local partners, central and local

government, and across Government, focused on tangible improvements for local people and communities. Central government will still take a keen interest in outcome delivery and take firm action where necessary, but MHCLG will work with other government departments to make sure that support and challenge in response to the Framework is helpful and improvement-focused. Framework data will also feed into Government's assessment of whether the Best Value Duty is being met, which can in turn lead to intervention.

As we move towards an outcomes-based model of accountability, I am keen we continue to work with the Committee and the NAO to help departments across Government ensure value for money in a way that strikes the right balance between central scrutiny and local empowerment.

As part of this announcement, we are also launching engagement with the local government sector and relevant stakeholders on what metrics should underpin the priority outcomes and how the Framework can best work alongside existing systems of accountability and support for the sector. We expect to use the Framework to support delivery from April 2026.

The Framework, alongside MHCLG's wider local government reforms, will create the right conditions for local authorities to make their own decisions and best deliver for their local citizens, and help to support a more financial sustainable local government sector.

I hope the above provides further clarity to the Committee on the Government's move to outcomes-based accountability for local government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Healey', with a stylized, cursive script.