



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP

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Florence Eshalomi
Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local
Government Committee
By Email

05 March 2026

Dear Florence,

I am writing to inform you that I have today published the Slough Commissioners' seventh report, together with my response.

I am concerned that the tentative progress identified at Slough Borough Council as set out in Commissioners previous report does not appear to have been sustained. Commissioners report sets out that while some progress has been made, with the internal audit plan being delivered and the internal audit and counter fraud teams increasing visibility, targeting training, and becoming an indispensable part of good governance within the Council. However, the Council is still working to improve the implementation of audit recommendations and procurement compliance through better data use. There remain significant in year budget pressures and a lack of strategic focus and delivery of transformation of plans and programmes. Commissioners conclude that on current trajectory do not envisage that Slough will achieve Best Value by November 2026.

Given the ongoing challenges in the Council, I am, therefore, today commissioning an external review, led by Dame Mary Ney with support from Will Godfrey, to assess the Council's improvement trajectory under intervention and identify what if any further support is required to drive immediate progress and to put the Council on a long-term sustainable footing.

I welcome any contribution you may wish to make to the Review team's work. The Review team will be contactable at SloughReview2026@communities.gov.uk and they will welcome your reflections on the Council's journey to date and long-term future. The role of Commissioners remains unchanged, and it remains imperative that the Council does not lose sight of the scale of the improvement journey in front of them and continue to put in place all necessary measures required. I trust that I can continue to rely on your engagement and support as we seek the common goal of securing the Council's long term recovery.

Yours ever,

ALISON MCGOVERN MP

Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness