

21 JULY 2021

Rt Hon Chris Pincher MP
Minister of State (Minister for Housing)
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Via email

Dear Chris,

Re. Developing a nearly perfect planning future for local communities

As you continue to develop reforms to the planning system through your forthcoming planning bill, I wanted to write to you and reiterate directly the key points from the National Association of Local Councils responses to the Planning White paper consultations last summer.

I am asking you as the minister responsible for planning reform to ensure that the planning bill does not:

- further weaken and over simplify the planning system;
- further suppress the voice of local councillors on principal authorities and local councils endeavouring to represent their communities;
- further restrict members of the public from engaging with planning;
- further result in development on green-fields, green belt and/or important open spaces and ignore the climate emergency;
- further favour developers over communities and the environment;
- further expand permitted development rights;
- further ignore the key finding of Sir Oliver Letwin's 'Independent Review of Build Out' that developers are only prepared to build out planning permissions at a rate which does not affect market price;
- further ignore the need to support local authorities and local (parish and town) councils to deliver affordable homes;

- further ignore the case for a third party right of appeal against planning decisions;
- further neglect the need to strengthen and protect neighbourhood plans.

I would also ask you to consider NALC's proposals for a nearly perfect planning future – our own NPPF – from the perspective of local councils, which are attached to this letter

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sue Baxter." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Cllr Sue Baxter
Chairman
National Association of Local Councils