

X xxxxxxxx MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA



5th September 2011

Dear x,

As you will be aware, the government has recently published a draft of the new National Planning Policy Framework for consultation. As a company working in your constituency, we have been extremely concerned by the unfounded scare-mongering used by campaigners against these vital changes to a planning system which is currently not fit for purpose.

The country is in the midst of a housing crisis with record numbers of people on social housing waiting lists, young families unable to access home-ownership and housing provision for older people not keeping pace with our ageing population. The social consequences of our lack of house-building for current and future generations will be serious and significant.

At the same time the current economic situation is perilous and economic growth is very slow. The construction industry in general – and house-building in particular – can be a key part of the country's economic recovery. Construction creates local jobs and is a low import industry with consequential benefits spread throughout our economy.

We absolutely support localism. Provided local authorities and local residents actively and properly plan for the future of their area, the proposed new planning framework will give local communities far more say over development- including type and location of new homes - in their areas.

- We support the government's goal of a planning system that is pro-growth and pro-development. It is vital, therefore, that a presumption in favour of sustainable development is clearly set out in the NPPF as the starting point for planning decisions and development plan preparation.
- Local authorities' assessment of local housing requirements is absolutely critical; such assessment should look both at the requirements (demand and need) side of the equation, as well as the supply side.

As a local employer and with employees who live and work in your area, the social and economic consequences of failing to tackle the housing crisis and failing planning system are huge. Please find enclosed a National Planning Policy Framework Factsheet you may find useful.

We urge you to support the National Planning Policy Framework and would welcome any questions or comments you have.

Yours etc etc

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