

Dear Selaine Saxby,

Re: Government's 'Planning for the Future' White Paper

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposals to deregulate the planning system contained in the government's White Paper which I believe undermines local democracy.

There is little evidence that the proposed measures would lead to higher quality, more energy efficient, affordable homes together with the necessary infrastructure. With house prices locally more than ten times average earnings any government discount will not mean much to many of our low income families and young people looking for their first home. The scrapping of developers section 106 contributions casts into doubt the future of social housebuilding which is badly needed given the numbers of people on the housing waiting list.

I want us to have the power and voice to shape our area so that it is somewhere that I am proud to live, work and enjoy time in. I want our area to have high quality affordable homes built in the right places and supported by the right infrastructure which provides enough schools, promotes greener and more active travel and tackles climate change. There is no evidence that the government's proposals will deliver this. I believe that it can only be achieved through a planning system that meets the needs of our communities.

I would ask that you raise my concerns with the Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick MP, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government. Taking further planning powers away from our communities and councils will only deprive us of the ability to define the area we live in and know best.

Kind Regards,