



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State for Housing

***Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government***

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Dear Mr Little,

Thank you for your letter of 30 July to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government about Bury Council's Notice of Motion about local involvement in planning decisions. I am replying as Minister of State for Housing.

The '*Planning for the Future*' White Paper proposed comprehensive reform to the English planning system. This package proposes significant changes to both the focus and processes of planning, to secure better outcomes in terms of land for homes, beauty and environmental quality, as well as processes which give greater certainty and speed for communities, councils and developers. At the heart of these reforms is a need to make the planning system simpler, quicker and more accessible for local people.

The Members of Bury Council have asked for clarity on the role of community involvement in the planning process. I confirm that our proposals are intended to increase such input, which is why we are making plan making much more straightforward and digital, so it becomes easier for local people to influence the plan and have their say on the location and standard of new development. Communities will continue to be consulted on the detail of proposals, for proposals that diverge from the Local Plan and for areas where planning permission continues to be required, such as in protected areas. Planning committees formed of elected members will continue to be part of the route to determining planning applications. The best place to consider the strategic use of land is at the Local Plan stage, settling these questions at the outset will give certainty to communities, authorities and developers that development will come forward in areas best identified for growth. Communities and councillors will be a critical part of place-shaping through engagement on local design codes. This will ensure real influence over the design of development.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope you find this information helpful. I enjoyed my visit to Bury on 19 August to see the work being doing to bring forward brownfield sites for development in Radcliffe and other areas of your historic town.

Thank you for hosting me. As I told you yesterday, the Government is keen to see local authorities focus on brownfield development, near to infrastructure, to help level up local communities and relieve pressure on green spaces. I have told my colleagues James Daly and Christian Wakeford that I look forward to a future visit to see progress.

*Yours sincerely,
Christopher Pincher*

RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP
