

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE		Item 9	Page 1
Councils Affected	All	31 st January 2017	
Report Title	ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT – OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO HOUSING DELIVERY		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline the engagement that has taken place in the last couple of months with government at ministerial and civil service levels, on issues about blockages to housing delivery, and to discuss how best to take these messages forward.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 31st October 2016, we hosted a visit by 10 civil servants from the Communities and Local Government department, Cabinet Office, Department for Education and DEFRA. They were taken to see progress in Hanwood Park and Stanton Cross and then there was a round table discussion with Chief Executives of the four planning authorities.
- 2.2 Earlier, on the 26th October, Cllr Roberts, as chair of the Joint Delivery Committee, attended a parliamentary briefing by the TCPA for the Housing and Planning Minister, Gavin Barwell MP. The press release attached as Appendix 'A' refers.
- 2.3 A further meeting was held with Gavin Barwell on 8th December 2016 when the TCPA's New Communities group met.
- 2.4 In the meantime, DCLG are preparing a white paper on housing delivery, which is expected to be published in due course. Hopefully, this will take a more open minded approach to how housing can be delivered across all tenure types and using more tools to help the market meet need. Other potential opportunities to influence the government were outlined at the meeting.
- 2.5 The principal messages which have been given to government throughout all these sessions have been:-
 - The scale and complexity of housing delivery in North Northamptonshire should not be underestimated, nor should the willingness of the area to accommodate the right amount of high quality growth and infrastructure, as evidenced by bringing forward two new SUEs in the new Core Spatial Strategy and by our track record to date.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE	Item 9	Page 2
--	--	---------------	--------

- The planning system was not the cause of poor delivery rates; the area has granted 12 times more planning consents than the rest of the country, per head of population.
- That the reliance on a small number of volume housebuilders to build homes at the right quantity needs to be avoided; opportunities for small and medium-sized builders to grow their market share need to be created.
- There had been enough concessions given to the housebuilding sector, and they had not had the desired impact anyway.
- The government should support local authorities that wish to intervene in the market to progress housing delivery at a quicker pace.
- That capacity funding for local authorities is required at a greater scale and with more permanence than currently exists.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The Joint Committee is asked to endorse this overall approach to lobbying government.