



TCPA PRESS RELEASE

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SECRETARY OF STATE BACKS LARGE SCALE HOUSING GROWTH

Today the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government showed his support for local councils driving the delivery of large scale development. Addressing a meeting of the TCPA New Communities Group, a group of local authorities and development corporations delivering large scale development, the Minister said housing was his “number one priority”. Emphasising the opportunity presented by the forthcoming Housing White Paper, the Secretary of State set out some of the short term and long-term measures it might include:

“The White Paper, that I hope to bring out next month, will seek to make sure that we release land in the right places...and include measures to diversify the market – we don’t have enough SME builders – and we must increase the different types of homes, including custom build.”

He added:

“[addressing the housing challenge] is only going to work if every government department works together...we need consensus in parliament as well...I want to work with the opposition on this. It’s a big challenge and it’s about time we did something much more radical in this space...I need the help of the New Communities Group, TCPA and other organisations to give your ideas and thoughts”

The Minister was addressing a parliamentary briefing for TCPA New Communities Group. Members are local authority planning departments and development corporations planning and delivering exemplary large-scale new communities, from Garden City inspired new towns and villages to urban regeneration and extension schemes. The Group encourages a sharing of knowledge and best practice, and together provides innovative local leadership for plans delivering in the region of 150,000 new homes. Today’s briefing was held with support from Places for People, and demonstrated the progress made by a number of local authorities as they strive to create communities that meet the highest standards.

Hugh Ellis, TCPA Interim Chief Executive said:

"I am delighted Government recognises the important role of the TCPA New Communities Group. Going forward it is critical that Government reinforces the need for quality and inclusion, as well as housing numbers. The forthcoming Housing White Paper provides a once in a generation opportunity to create the kind of places the nation so desperately needs".

The briefing was hosted by Mark Pawsey MP for Rugby and Bulkington at Portcullis House. Also speaking was Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Housing, who said *"Housing numbers are important but it's the type and quality of development that matters. Good quality development can help to get buy in from local people... the garden city principles provide a framework for this"*.

Louise Wyman, responsible for Garden Villages, Towns and Cities at Homes and Communities Agency outlined the Government's plans for Garden Villages, and the Leaders of the NCG councils shared their ambition and experience of delivering comprehensively planned, sustainable growth at the local level, and highlighted the significant amount of progress that continues to be made.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The [Town and Country Planning Association](#) (TCPA) is an independent campaigning charity calling for more integrated planning based on the principles of accessibility, sustainability, diversity, and community cohesion. The TCPA puts social justice and the environment at the heart of the debate about planning policy, housing and energy supply. We inspire government, industry and campaigners to take a fresh perspective on major issues including climate change and regeneration.
2. The [TCPA New Communities Group](#) The TCPA New Communities Group was established in 2009 by TCPA and the Department for Communities and Local

Government. Its members are local authorities and development corporations planning and delivering exemplary large-scale new communities, from Garden City inspired new towns and villages to urban regeneration and extension schemes. HCA's Advisory Team for Large Applications (ATLAS) is also a member and provides ongoing support to the local authorities. The Group collectively helps to develop plans, provide political support and encourage a sharing of knowledge and best practice through seminars, workshops, study visits, parliamentary meetings and newsletters. Together the Group is providing innovative local leadership for plans delivering in the region of 150,000 new homes. For more information, please visit <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/new-communities-group>

3. Members of the Group are: Ashford Borough Council; Cherwell District Council; Cornwall Council; East Hampshire District Council; Ebbsfleet Development Corporation; Essex Garden City Settlements; Colchester Borough Council; Braintree District Council, Tendring District Council, and Essex County Council; Fareham Borough Council; Milton Keynes Council; North Dorset District Council; North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit; Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation; Portsmouth City Council; South Cambridgeshire District Council; and Wokingham Borough Council.
4. [Places for People](http://placesforpeople.co.uk) are one of the largest property and leisure management, development and regeneration companies in the UK. They own or manage 150,000 homes and have assets in excess of £3.1 billion. As a not-for-dividend organisation, the profits that it makes are invested back into its business and its communities. By focusing not just on the homes, but also infrastructure and quality of life in the places where they are built, Places for People's developments are all about long-term viability and sustainability. With a long track record of successful development and management, and a reputation for delivering large-scale regeneration in towns and cities, the TCPA New Communities Group is in an excellent position to explore innovative ways of partnership working. For further information, please visit <http://placesforpeople.co.uk>