

Clive Betts MP

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

By email: [officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk](mailto:officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk)

Dear Mr Betts

We are writing to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee whose report Housing for Older People was published in February 2018. The Strategy, which was very much supported by the retirement Industry contained the following recommendation:

- Ensuring that national and local planning policy encourages the building of more of all types of housing for older people – extra care, retirement, sheltered and accessible housing across the social and private sectors, with older people involved in the design process.

It was therefore very disappointing that such a policy was not in any way contained in the recent DCLG consultations on the Planning White Paper or Changes to the Planning System. Once again it seems that the needs of the fastest growing demographic sector in the country are being ignored.

Specifically, the forthcoming legislation should:

- 1. Create a co-ordinated approach between local planning and adult social care departments**
- 2. Set a clear allocation for specialist housing for older people in Local Plans**
- 3. Recognise the health and social care benefits of specialist housing for older people**
- 4. Recognise the geographic requirements of specialist housing for older people.**

The Retirement Housing Group UK represents a range of providers of accommodation for older people both in the private and public sectors. The Group's remit is to promote awareness of this sector of the market and ensure planning policies are put in place so as to ensure the delivery of an adequate supply of accommodation specifically designed to meet the diverse needs of older people. The need to provide an adequate supply of specialist accommodation for older people is

becoming increasingly important given our aging population. This was recently very much recognised by the Minister for Care, during the current Pandemic when she stated *“Retirement and Extra Care housing developments across the country - whatever their size, or whether private or not-for-profit – are playing a vital role in protecting the most vulnerable in our country”*

Attached to this letter are the representations made by the Retirement Housing Group together with a letter sent last year to the Secretary of State signed by all the principal parties in the retirement industry.

Now that the consultation responses are being reviewed by DCLG we would ask for your support in ensuring that our concerns and the recommendations of you own Select Committee are embodied in the emerging reform of the planning system.

Yours sincerely



Richard Morton

Chair Retirement Housing Group UK

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