



Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
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Dear Michael,

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. As a Committee, we look forward to taking evidence from you on your priorities in due course. We will also be looking for reassurance that the change in your Department's name does not indicate a shift in focus away from the important role of local government in delivering local services and levelling up.

We noted reports in the press last Friday about your decision to pause reforms to the planning system. My Committee published its report on the proposed reforms back in June, having gathered a range of evidence from stakeholders across the planning system. In the report, we highlighted some of the benefits of the reforms – as well as some of our concerns, and proposals for how to address these. We also set out our offer to conduct detailed pre-legislative scrutiny of a draft of the Planning Bill. That offer very much still stands, and we look forward to the Government's response to our report.

Congratulations again on your appointment and we look forward to working with you.

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee