



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Cllr Peter Dean
Development Control Committee Chairman
London Borough of Bromley
Members' Room
Bromley Civic Centre
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Nick Boles MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Planning)

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Our Ref: NB/NB/035090/12

14 JAN 2013

Dear Cllr Dean

Thank you for your letter of 29 November setting out the London Borough of Bromley's Motion, agreed on 12 November, in relation to Government planning policies.

It was good to meet you on 16 October and to be able to understand Bromley's concerns with our proposals. I can assure you again that our proposals to extend permitted development rights seeks to balance making it easier for homeowners and businesses to build small-scale extensions while respecting the amenity of neighbours. We estimate that four-fifths of householder applications (some 160,000), the larger, more complex and controversial ones will continue to be considered by local authorities through the planning system.

Our consultation closed on 24 December and following consideration of the responses we will decide what changes to permitted development rights we take forward. We expect to bring in changes early in 2013, through secondary legislation to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

Your motion suggests that the Secretary of State had encouraged local planning authorities to vary the extent of their Green Belt. However, his statement on 6 September simply reminded the House that planning authorities already have powers, in exceptional circumstances, to alter a Green Belt boundary if required. He also said that local planning authorities can introduce new Green Belt around new large developments, and that they should make best use of brownfield land in the Green Belt. The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that permanence is an essential characteristic of the Green Belt, and it reaffirms the purposes of Green Belt which include preventing sprawl and safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.

W. Herbert Fisher,

Nick Boles

NICK BOLES MP