



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Government**

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Our Ref: 4392654
Your Ref:

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Dear Meyrick,

Thank you for your letter, dated 8 August, to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP regarding Shapley Heath Garden village. Your letter has been passed to me for a response as it falls within my policy responsibilities.

Let me start by thanking you for your interest and role in the locally-led planning process.

We haven't built enough homes in this country for far too long and to deliver the homes the country needs the government has an ambition to deliver 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s.

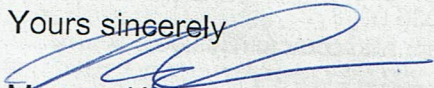
The government is clear that this should be a country that works for everyone and this means building more of the right homes, in the right places, and ensuring the housing market works for everybody.

Well-planned, well-designed, locally-led garden communities can play a vital role in helping meet this country's housing need well into the future, through providing a stable pipeline of homes. These will be places that people are happy to call home, with the potential to become vibrant, thriving communities where people can live and work for generations to come.

I note that the inspector stated "I consider that it would not be unsound for the Plan to retain the Council's aspirations to plan for long-term needs beyond the Plan period, which could include the delivery of a new settlement. But, the Plan should clearly state that this, as a growth option, would need to be fully considered and evidenced in a future (potentially early or immediate) review of the Plan or a subsequent DPD."

Building a garden community is by nature ambitious and long term and the funding awarded to Hart District Council will enable the authority to carry out the necessary work and planning for development, where the right infrastructure is provided at the right time, and which delivers a high-quality new community that stands out from the ordinary, and satisfies the planning process.

Yours sincerely



Masum Ali
Policy Official