

HANSARD - WRITTEN ANSWERS

2nd June 2010

Affordable Housing: Construction

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to devolve planning powers to local authorities to ensure local need for affordable housing is met. [671]

Robert Neill: Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) sets out the current planning requirements of local planning authorities to provide for affordable housing to meet local needs. We have committed, in the Coalition Government document 'The Coalition: our programme for government', to radically reforming the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication 'Open Source Planning'. We have also committed, in the Coalition Government document, to publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will provide the details of how we intend to do this shortly.

Housing: Construction

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to amend Planning Policy Statement 3; and if he will make a statement. [44]

Robert Neill: We have committed, in the Coalition Government document 'The Coalition: our programme for government' to radically reforming the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication 'Open Source Planning'. We have also committed, in the Coalition Government document, to publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development including areas covered by current Planning Policy Statements and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will provide the details of how we intend to do this shortly.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that locally set house building projections meet national assessments of housing need. [675]

Robert Neill: We have committed, in the Coalition Government document 'The Coalition: our programme for government', that we would radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication 'Open Source Planning'. In terms of planning the supply of housing, we have set out our intention in 'Open Source Planning' to abolish national and regional building targets and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. We will provide more details on our approach shortly.

Regional Planning and Development

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on regional spatial strategies; and if he will make a statement. [214]

Robert Neill: We are absolutely committed to abolishing regional strategies and returning powers on housing and planning to local authorities and we have announced legislation in the Queen's Speech to do this. We are keen to move in advance of legislation and we are currently considering using existing powers to revoke regional strategies ahead of legislation. The Secretary of State has written to all local authority leaders to confirm this policy saying that in the interim he expects them to have regard to his letter as a material consideration in planning decisions. I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.