

HANSARD – WRITTEN ANSWERS

3rd June 2010

Planning Permission

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to allow local authorities not to implement the requirements of Local Development Frameworks and Supplementary Planning Documents covering land for which detailed planning consents have not been granted; and if he will make a statement. [351]

Robert Neill: The new Government are already taking steps to abolish Regional Strategies and give councils more power and discretion to determine their own planning policies. The Secretary of State has recently written to local authorities on this issue and a copy of the letter is available in the Library of the House. A more detailed planning statement, including addressing the issues of the revision of Local Development Frameworks, will be published in due course.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to remove regional housing targets in advance of the introduction of primary legislation on regional spatial strategies. [839]

Robert Neill: We are absolutely committed to abolishing Regional Strategies, including regional housing targets. The Secretary of State has written to all local authority chief planning officers confirming this. This constitutes a material consideration in planning terms as emerging policy. We are keen to move in advance of legislation and are currently considering revoking Regional Strategies ahead of taking legislation through Parliament. We will make a statement in due course.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the ending of regional spatial strategies; and if he will make a statement. [860]

Robert Neill: We are absolutely committed to abolishing Regional Strategies and are very keen to move in advance of legislation. The Secretary of State has written to all local authority chief planning officers confirming this. This constitutes a material consideration in planning terms as emerging policy. We are currently considering revoking Regional Strategies ahead of taking legislation through Parliament.