



HBF chief warns of ‘anti-development feeling’

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The Government has underestimated anti-development feeling among many councillors and the Coalition’s proposed incentive to reward authorities who approve new housing schemes may not be enough to swing the balance, ministers have been warned.

That was the view of Stewart Baseley, chief executive of the Home Builders Federation, when he shared the platform at a housing conference held in London with Communities minister Grant Shapps.

Baseley said: “I think the Government has seriously underestimated the strength of anti-development feelings amongst local politicians. In my opinion many councillors have gone into politics, and subsequently been elected, purely on an anti-development ticket and I fear this will result in developments getting rejected across the country for some time to come.”

He added: “I am not convinced the ‘Bonus’ will be anything like enough to persuade them otherwise.”

Earlier Shapps had promised to simplify the way Building Regulations affect new homes and insisted that planned incentives would act as a spur for new residential development.

The minister said: “I am determined to make it easier to build the homes this country needs. Appropriate building standards, applied sensibly, help developers and communities alike, but they can only be effective if they are easier to understand. That's why I want to simplify the process for house builders to meet the standards communities demand.

"But I also want to make it easier for these companies to complete new developments where they are wanted. That's why we will introduce powerful new incentives so those communities that give the green light to developments see the benefits of the new homes in their area."

Roger Milne

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