



Dominic Raab MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning
MHCLG
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Cc Rt Hon Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, BEIS

10th May 2018

Dear Minister

As city leaders we share your ambition of delivering up to 300,000 new homes a year in order to tackle the country's housing crisis. We also strongly support the recent MHCLG pronouncement that *"quality is as important as quantity when it comes to building the homes we need"*.

High quality homes are a foundation for thriving communities. They can support strategies for inclusive growth and the attraction of talent and investment. A key component of a high quality home is one that is low or net zero carbon emissions and that contributes towards renewable energy generation and smart energy systems. This also supports housing affordability by permanently reducing energy bills.

The Clean Growth Strategy sets out central government's commitment to consult further on strengthening energy performance standards for new homes. However, we believe there is also a key role for local government to play in driving low and zero carbon homes through the planning system.

Unfortunately, there is confusion on the extent of our powers in this area, which requires clarification. The current consultation on the draft revised National Planning Policy Framework is a key opportunity to do so.

We strongly believe in the ability of cities to take a leadership position on climate change, and in doing so support central government's commitments to the Paris Agreement. However, this requires clarity from your department that driving higher standards of energy performance from new housing through the planning system is not only allowed, but to be encouraged.

In return, we are committed as core cities and other partners to working collectively to ensure consistency in our approach, to provide certainty to the market and ensure we can achieve your aspiration of both quality and quantity of new housing.

The specific opportunity to amend the draft revised NPPF is set out in the accompanying note.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss this issue.

Yours sincerely

UK Green Building Council
Together for a better built environment

The Building Centre
26 Store Street
London WC1E 7BT

T 020 7580 0623
E info@ukgbc.org
W ukgbc.org

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Judith Blake

Cllr Judith Blake CBE, Chair, Core Cities UK; Co-Chair UK100; Leader, Leeds City Council

Joe Anderson

Mayor Joe Anderson OBE, Core Cities UK Housing and Regeneration Portfolio; Mayor of Liverpool

John F.W. Holdich OBE

Cllr John Holdich OBE, Co-Chair UK100; Leader, Peterborough City Council

John Alker

John Alker, Director of Policy & Places, UK Green Building Council

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