



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Eamonn O'Brien
Leader of the Council
Bury Council
Bury Town Hall
Knowsley St
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 0SW

9 December 2022

Dear Eamonn,

Re: Places for Everyone

I write further to the Statement of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities given to the House of Commons on the 6th December.

The Statement concerned an update on the Levelling Up Bill, regarding new guidance for calculating local housing need figures.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Secretary of State confirmed, "I do believe that the plan-making process for housing has to start with a number. This number should, however, be an advisory starting point, a guide that is not mandatory. It will be up to local authorities, working with their communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built, taking into account what should be protected in each area- be that our precious Green Belt or national parks..."

The Secretary of State further outlined how those with local plans at an advanced stage of preparation who will not benefit from these provisions can take advantage of transitional arrangements to produce plans that are compliant with the new guidance.

"Where authorities are well-advanced in producing a new plan, but the constraints which I have outlined mean that the amount of land to be released needs to be reassessed, I will give those places a two year period to revise their plan against the changes we propose and get it adopted."

The position could not be clearer.

Although we are part of Places for Everyone long-term developmental plan for nine of the Boroughs within Greater Manchester, Bury Council has no adopted local plan. The housing need calculation made within Places for Everyone is now obsolete and not in line with national guidance.

It is quite clear that Bury's local plan must be produced in line with the new national guidance I have outlined which would put it completely at odds with Places for Everyone.

Member of Parliament for Bury North

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In Prime Minister's Questions this week, Keir Starmer confirmed his support for mandatory housing targets but Bury must follow national planning guidance as it is now rather than what it may be in the future.

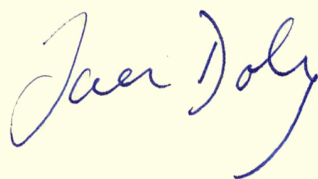
Would you therefore confirm that Bury Council will not only be withdrawing from the Places for Everyone plan at the earliest opportunity but from the current hearings before the Inspector? In these circumstances, further costs to the taxpayer related to the hearings would be unjustifiable.

The new guidance requires a joint approach to calculating housing need through community consultation and a reinforced brownfield first policy and will ensure that the Borough's precious Green Belt can be protected.

Amongst other areas, the new national guidance provides Bury Council with the opportunity to remove the Walshaw and Elton Reservoir sites from any future local plan and I urge you to take this opportunity.

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Daly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

James Daly MP