



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Houses of Parliament
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Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith

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8th June 2019

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your question on 21 May when you asked me to bring the House up to date on what is happening with new towns and green towns. I undertook to write to you with an update on the progress of the current garden communities.

In 2017 we published our housing white paper that makes clear that well-planned, well-designed, locally-led garden communities play a vital role in helping meet this country's housing need well into the future, through providing a stable pipeline of homes.

Government is already taking a number of steps to support the design and delivery of these new settlements. We are taking action through supporting 29 locally-led garden communities across the country, from Cumbria to Cornwall, including six new garden towns that joined the programme this spring. We will make further announcements on more successful places in due course.

The 29 garden communities we are currently supporting have the potential for up to 300,000 homes by 2050. They range in size from 1,500 to over 40,000 new homes. Local authorities report that approximately 18,000 homes have been started.

We have provided £31 million capacity funding since 2015, to support the places to deliver against their ambitious proposals. Additionally, we provided £4.5 million of early support funding to the 6 new places that joined the programme this spring.

Furthermore, Ebbsfleet was announced as the site of a new Garden City of 15,000 homes at Budget 2014 and the Department has created an (UDC) Urban Development Corporation with a capital budget of £268 million up to 2020/2021 for investment in infrastructure to drive forward delivery. So far over 1,500 homes have been completed, and we aim to deliver over 2,800 homes by 2021.

In line with our commitments in the 2017 Housing White Paper, we legislated last summer to enable the creation of locally-led new town development corporations. These will be overseen by the local authorities covering the area of the new town rather than by the Secretary of State for Housing as was previously the case. We consider that locally-led new town development corporations can be, where there are complex delivery and co-ordination challenges, the right vehicle for delivering new communities and transforming existing ones.

I have deposited a copy of this letter in the House library.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH