



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

*Jean Contrevent*

**RE: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns surrounding National Development Management Policies. I have read your comments with interest.

I recognise that many people feel strongly about reforms to our planning system - and rightly so. Planning is at the heart of our communities, from the homes we live in, to the schools our children go to.

I support the Government's proposal to introduce a suite of National Development Management Policies, which would set out nationally a range of planning considerations that apply regularly in decision-making across England, or significant parts of it. This would help local authorities produce slimmer local plans more quickly, which are more genuinely locally focused and reduce time-consuming duplication of policies that apply universally. I believe there can be no doubt about the benefits of putting important national policies, such as protections for the Green Belt and general policies for conserving heritage assets, on a statutory footing.

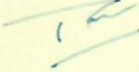
With that being said, I agree that these reforms should be introduced with care and in a way which considers the views of communities across the country. I am assured that the Government will hold a full public consultation on the draft policies, building on the initial views which have already been sought via consultation on the principles for producing National Development Management Policies. It is worth noting that the existing National Planning Policy Framework - which sets out planning guidance for local authorities in England - already contains development management policies of this type. Policies in the framework can be significant 'material considerations' when assessing planning applications, meaning that they should be taken into account.

Ministers have been clear that National Development Management Policies would not impinge on local policies for shaping development, nor direct what land should be allocated for particular uses during the plan-making process. These will remain matters for locally produced plans. Like you, I am a firm supporter of the vital role that local plans play in the planning system and the importance of putting local voices at the heart of development. I see these reforms as an important way of speeding up the process of creating a local plan and ensuring that even more communities can benefit from the protections of having a local plan in place.

I hope that, with this response, I have outlined why I am assured that the introduction of National Development Management Policies is an important step in creating a genuinely planned system for development, which will support clearer decision-making.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*  


**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**