



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

**Department for Communities and Local  
Government**

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Date:**24 March 2017**

Dear Mr Roberts,

### **Neighbourhood Development Planning in Arun District Council**

Thank you for your letter of 8 February about the Neighbourhood Planning Bill, financial support for local planning authorities and the Housing White Paper.

The process for updating a neighbourhood plan once it is in force is set out in Government [planning practise guidance](#).

Measures in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill proposing new neighbourhood plan modification processes would only come into force should the Bill gain Royal Assent, and the relevant enabling legislation be brought forward. The progress of the Bill can be followed on the [Parliament website](#). The [Government response](#) to the consultation on the implementation of neighbourhood planning provisions in the Bill (published in December 2016) provides more information about the proposed new modification processes.

The local planning authority neighbourhood planning funding arrangements for the forthcoming financial year were set out recently in a [letter to Chief Planning Officers](#). The letter explained that should the Neighbourhood Planning Bill receive Royal Assent, further details on funding arrangement will be published in due course in relation to the modification of plans that are in force.

Government is continuing to provide support for communities who choose to prepare neighbourhood plans, in the form of grants of up to £9,000. In addition, certain priority groups are eligible to apply for £6,000 of additional grant funding and technical support packages. The criteria for qualification as a priority group includes all those undertaking a site assessment for a site allocation or groups who are allocating sites for housing or mixed development. Further details on this support are [available online](#).

Neighbourhood planning groups are eligible to apply for support to modify a neighbourhood plan that is already in force irrespective of whether they have already

claimed their full grant allocation under the current or previous support programme.

In the Housing White Paper Government confirmed that it will make further funding available to neighbourhood planning groups from 2018-2020, so they can access the additional support they might need, for example where they allocate sites for housing and in planning for better design.

Existing [Planning practise guidance](#) sets out that local planning authorities should work constructively with a qualifying body to enable a neighbourhood plan to make timely progress. A local planning authority should share evidence with those preparing the neighbourhood plan, in order for example, that every effort can be made to meet identified local need through the neighbourhood planning process.

The Housing White Paper consultation seeks views on the Government proposal to amend the National Planning Policy Framework to indicate that local planning authorities should provide neighbourhood planning groups with a housing requirement figure, where this is sought.

As part of the forthcoming consultation on a new standard methodology for assessing housing requirements, we will seek views on whether a standard methodology could be developed for calculating housing need in a neighbourhood plan area.

The closing date for the Housing White Paper consultation is 2 May 2017, please send us our views. Full details of how to respond to the consultation are [available online](#).

Thank you for the invitation to attend the meeting on 5 April with Arun Parishes. I am afraid neither I nor any of my colleagues are available to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Mountain  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Planning, Development Plans