

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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To: Kent MPs

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The Housing Crisis in Kent

It has become evident that we in the South East and particularly in Kent, are suffering a crisis to our quality of life and environment, as a result of trying to achieve the derived housing target set by the Government.

The new Government now has the opportunity to rectify the situation by acting on policies that it has already laid out in its manifesto, which will not only benefit Kent, but also the other regions of the UK where economic growth and house building is of paramount importance:

The manifesto sets out plans for the housing market which includes a commitment to build 'at least a million homes, of all tenures, over the next five years', suggesting a slowdown on the previous target of 300,000 a year.

With the emphasis on development away from London and the South East, the target for Kent should be reassessed and within this target, allocation across Authorities must be determined on a regional basis rather than a purely voluntary intention by each Authority.

Key to all development is the provision of the requisite and agreed infrastructure. It is critical that the pledge in the manifesto 'We will amend planning rules so that the infrastructure – roads, schools, GP surgeries – comes before people move into new homes' is implemented expeditiously.

We should also recognise the increased importance that is being given at all levels to climate change and air quality and their causes and effects. Consideration is already being taken by Inspectors of the effect housing development has on health and the environment.

We are asking our MPs to work together now to introduce these actions not only for the benefit of their communities, but also as a result, the benefit of those in real need in the UK.

We would welcome an opportunity to attend a Kent MPs meeting to discuss this further. Attached is a 2-page briefing paper, which sets out the issues in a bit more detail, which we hope you find helpful.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Sarah Barker
KALC Chairman

Cllr John Wilson
Chairman - KALC Planning Advisory Committee