

Amendment to Motion B

Proposed by Cllr Hare

Seconded by Cllr Morris

Protecting local involvement in planning decisions

This Council notes that central government's proposed planning reforms will allow developers to receive automatic planning permission in designated "growth zones", completely bypassing public objections from local residents.

This Council notes that the Housing, Communities, and Local Government Select Committee has concluded that the government's plans will not produce a quicker, cheaper, and more democratic planning system.

This Council believes that this is a "developers' charter" that side-lines local communities, depriving the public of the power to shape our future, protect our past, and conserve our local environment.

This Council believes that placemaking, the collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm and reinvent public spaces as the heart of our communities, is essential to the future of our Borough. With community participation at its centre, placemaking cannot be successful without the active participation of our residents in decision making, including the right to object to planning applications that do not create or allow for quality public spaces that contribute to residents' health, happiness, and wellbeing.

This Council believes that there is a pressing need to build more good quality and affordable homes. The average house price has doubled since 2009, and the level of council housing is at an all-time low. However, more than 1.1m homes that received planning permission in England over the last decade are yet to be built, therefore the barrier towards meeting this need is not posed by the current planning system.

This Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes. This Council calls on the government to protect the right of communities to object to any and all individual planning applications.

This Council resolves that the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition should write a joint letter to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking him to scrap the planning white paper and to undertake a review of permitted development rights.