



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Clive Betts MP  
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House of Commons  
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**The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local  
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22 December 2015

Thank you for your letter of 10 December regarding our consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy.

We had of course intended to engage with the Select Committee and are keen to canvas a wide range of views on our proposal. We also welcome your intention to hold a short inquiry into the issues covered by the consultation and would be very happy to discuss the issues raised in the consultation document if you would find that helpful. As you know, we place great importance on full and constructive consultation and thus we have decided to extend the consultation period by a further four weeks to Monday 22 February.

We are proposing a number of specific changes which seek to complement measures in the Housing and Planning Bill or deliver commitments set out in the Productivity Plan and Autumn Statement. These proposed policy changes are a key part of our ambition to deliver 1 million more homes overall by 2020, and of extending the opportunity of home ownership to hard working families, and in particular to first time buyers. They seek to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their new home, make more efficient use of land in suitable locations, drive up delivery of new homes and seek to release more land for delivery of Starter Homes. In taking this forward we will maintain the overall balance of planning policy established through the National Planning Policy Framework.

Our officials have already made contact with a number of organisations to alert them to our consultation, and will be engaging with them over the next few weeks.

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**

**BRANDON LEWIS MP**