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Our reaction to the Government's proposed planning reforms

As lockdown restrictions began to ease, Boris Johnson delivered his 'build build build' speech and revealed the government's plans for economic recovery to deal with the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also promised to undertake 'the most radical reforms to our planning system since the Second World War'. The proposed reforms and the Planning for the Future White Paper have subsequently been released, but much remains to be seen if these will have the desired effect on planning and housing delivery

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has today launched two planning consultation documents.

Planning for the Future proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process

Changes to the current planning system sets out proposals for measures to improve the effectiveness of the current planning system.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907215/200805_Changes_to_the_current_planning_system_FINAL_version.pdf

Our Planning Director responds to the Government's planning system consultation documents that have been published today:

After being widely reported in the media over the past few days, we're pleased that the Government's proposals for reforming the planning system have arrived.

As a strong supporter of the plan-led system, we are pleased to see it remains as the focus for identifying new sites.

We also welcome the Government reaffirming the need to build 300,000 new homes a year.

But does having a standard method for deriving housing requirements which takes account of land constraints mean that high affordability Green Belt areas will see less housing built than they need?

It is important that the development plan system does not grind to a halt in the short-term through these reforms.

Whether these proposals turn out to be revolution or just an evolution of the system, it is vital that Local Planning Authorities are given the financial resources to see changes made quickly and efficiently.

We will be fully engaged with this consultation and we are happy to discuss the implications of the consultation with interested parties to better understand what it means for our clients and land interests.