



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

29 October 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

This Government is committed to delivering the largest increase in housebuilding in a generation, providing people with good, affordable, and secure homes.

Vital to this mission is great urban design and human-centred architecture. It is not enough to simply build new homes without regard to quality and the broader urban context in which homes sit. We need to build new housing that is livable, rich in greenery, and enhances wellbeing, with ample public services to serve communities' needs.

If we get this right, this could be transformative. Homes are the bedrock of our lives and communities - they're where we feel safe, spend time with our family and friends, and dream of the future. By designing new homes and communities as real, livable, human spaces, we can give everyone the chance to thrive in life, uplift our society, and grow our economy.

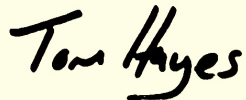
To this end, I would be grateful if you could please clarify how the Government is working towards these goals:

1. What new measures is the Government introducing to require new housing developments to provide abundant greenery, including trees, plants, and grass?
2. What new measures is the Government introducing to end the practice of trees being removed from residential roads, and to require new developments to be designed with trees at their heart?
3. How is the Government supporting local authorities to maintain and reintroduce greenery in urban spaces?
4. How does the Government plan to ensure that new housing has ample public services to meet the increased demands of new residents?
5. What measures is the Government taking to encourage and facilitate communal gardens for new housing developments?
6. How does the Government plan to ensure that Local Plans have abundant levels of greenspace?
7. What measures is the Government taking to encourage and facilitate greenery on high streets?

8. What new measures is the Government introducing to require new housing developments to be designed in a human-centred way, with ample access to sunlight and architectural design that enhances wellbeing?

New housing is at the centre of how we renew Britain. We need to get building, and we need to build well. I look forward to hearing from you about how the Government plans to achieve both of these key goals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hayes". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Tom" and "Hayes" being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Hayes MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East