

LETTERS

## Planning revolution must start 'local'

**Cllr Sue Baxter**  
*Chairman*

*National Association of Local Councils*

While it is local councils who are at the heart of driving forward the neighbourhood planning revolution, in a nation of some 48 million electors, only a quarter benefit from having a 'hyper-local' council to give the community a voice, tackle local issues and take action on locally determined priorities, and this needs to change.

While previous governments have taken some steps to support the creation of new local councils, more radical action is now needed to establish new local councils across all of England – especially in metropolitan areas and cities – to both lay the foundations for further devolution to the neighbourhood level but also to provide all communities with a 'hyperlocal' democratic structure and sustainable resource to develop a neighbourhood plan and oversee the delivery of its objectives.

The Neighbourhood Planning Bill should be amended to provide for the universal parishing of the whole country which will accelerate neighbourhood planning and get thousands more neighbourhood plans in place, and put even more people in control of their areas.

We have asked the House of Lords to support us in strengthening local



**Cllr Sue Baxter says radical action is needed to help**

democracy and improving the take up of neighbourhood planning to drive forward a neighbourhood planning revolution.

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