**[YOUR FULL ADDRESS]**

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[insert the name of your MP] **MP**

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

**Sent via email (**You can find your MP email here: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>

**[DATE]**

Dear [**MP NAME]**,

**Concern about the withdrawal of grant funding for Neighbourhood Planning**

My name is **[YOUR NAME]** and I am a constituent **[and e.g. local councillor/ clerk for X Parish Council]** of **[YOUR CONSTITUENCY]**.

I am writing to you today because I am concerned about the decision withdraw the Neighbourhood Planning and technical support funding from 2025 onwards.

**{EXPLAIN KEY REASONS AND ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE INFORMED THIS e.g.**

If you have a neighbourhood plan: (personalise as necessary):

**[insert your community/ parish name**] is a community with a Made Neighbourhood Plan, the product of years of work, local engagement, public consultation, and a not insignificant financial commitment — both in grant funding and local expenditure. Our Plan **[allocates land for housing and mixed-use development to meet identified need, includes detailed information on design and access to influence development, promotes sustainability, protects our historic and natural environment]**. It is living evidence of a parish embracing the responsibilities offered under the Localism Act.

This is not theory — it is working in practice. The policies in our plan have been used to **[e.g. influence the types of homes being delivered here, safeguarded green spaces and views that are particularly important to the community, set out design expectations for new developments, conserve locally important heritage assets]**. This demonstrates exactly what neighbourhood planning was designed to achieve: development shaped by the community, for the community.

If you are in the middle of preparing a neighbourhood plan

**[insert your community/ parish name**] is a community in the process of **[preparing/reviewing]** a Neighbourhood Plan. We have undertaken a significant amount of local engagement, public consultation, and a not insignificant financial commitment — both in grant funding and local expenditure. We have many volunteers who have given time and expertise to assist this.

Our Plan is seeking to **[allocate land for housing and mixed-use development to meet identified need, include detailed information on design and access to influence development, promote sustainability, protects our historic and natural environment]**. We have been doing this to embrace the responsibilities offered under the Localism Act.

The announcement to halt the funding came with no warning so we have not been able to plan accordingly when setting our budgets for the coming financial year. This has left our community feeling disenfranchised and demoralised and we are uncertain whether we can continue.

If you were planning to develop a neighbourhood plan

**[insert your community/ parish name**] is a community which had been considering preparing a neighbourhood plan. We saw this as an invaluable opportunity to have a say in the way our area develops, and influencing what happens here. The announcement to halt the funding means that we are now unclear as to whether we have the resources and technical expertise required to enable us to do this.

The government is championing a devolution agenda, yet the decision regarding neighbourhood planning support risks rendering that commitment obsolete. Communities like ours are being told they are empowered — while simultaneously being stripped of the practical support that enables that empowerment to function.

Neighbourhood Plans are not simple documents. They require technical assessments, planning expertise, legal conformity, and the capacity to navigate complex and evolving national frameworks. Without external support, many smaller councils will simply be unable to update or maintain their Plans, especially when faced with new challenges such as shifting housing targets or district-level shortfalls in land supply.

**[optional:** Indeed, [**insert your Local Authority name]** currently cannot demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, which makes **[our/ a]** Neighbourhood Plan one of the principal development plan documents for the parish. It carries real legal weight — but only when up to date and defensible.**]**

This decision to halt support for communities:

* Favours well-resourced communities, while marginalising others.
* Disincentivises good planning behaviour, punishing those who engage in the plan-led process.
* Contradicts the aims of ‘levelling up’ by pulling away tools for bottom-up development in rural and deprived areas.
* And most worryingly, undermines public trust — in both process and promise.

As a **[Local councillor/ Clerk/ community volunteer]**, I am becoming increasingly disheartening about the future of community empowerment and community involvement in local planning. Town and parish councils are consistently encouraged — even expected — to step up, to invest time, money, and energy into the “Localism” agenda, with the promise that our efforts will shape real, place-based outcomes. We do so in good faith.

Yet just as those efforts begin to bear fruit — after years of public consultation, plan-making, and navigating complex regulatory requirements — the ground is pulled from beneath us. The removal of neighbourhood planning support is not just a funding decision; it is a policy reversal that unpicks years of work.

What the Government is doing fundamentally undermines the very principles of Localism: that power should be exercised as close to communities as possible, and that those communities should be supported to take responsibility for shaping their future. Instead, the message to communities now appears to be: you may participate, but only if you can afford to.

I urge you to raise this matter with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and to call for:

* A review of the decision to end neighbourhood planning support.
* An impact assessment on rural and less affluent communities.
* And a transitional funding mechanism to allow communities to maintain the standards and contributions they’ve worked so hard to achieve.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about what this means for **[insert your community/ parish]** and for parish governance more broadly. Communities like ours want, and are equipped, to lead — we simply ask that the tools to do so are not taken away mid-stride.

I look forward to hearing from you. Yours sincerely,

**[YOUR NAME]**