

Councillor D Jones
Leader of the Council



Our Ref DJ/RE
Date 23 August 2019
Please ask for Councillor David Jones
Direct Line 0161 253 5101
E-mail david.jones@bury.gov.uk

Office of the
Leader of the Council

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham MBC
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Dear Dr Wilkins

Housing & Land Package Fund

Many thanks for your letter of 17 July 2019. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

It is with much regret that the government has withdrawn access to the Land Package funding source it had promised to GMCA back in 2018. For many of the Northern towns being able to leverage additional funding to remediate previous industrial land is crucial to ensure financial viability of proposed housing projects. It will impact on the delivery of much needed housing of all tenures although will hit the delivery of affordable homes disproportionately as additional costs for abnormal land cannot and should not be passed on to the customers through increased rent and shared ownership property values. This may, as you have pointed out, lead to house building on land currently identified as green belt.

With little access to a dedicated fund for remediation save for a small resource potentially available via Homes England it will make new affordable house building more costly for both councils and housing associations to deliver. Delivery targets for growth will undoubtedly fall behind in many of the boroughs within GMCA.

I support Oldham Council's position to lobby Government for the reinstatement this funding and, if feasible seek to provide Homes England with the resources to allocate such funds for remediation appropriately to deliver affordable housing.

Please do get in touch if you would require any further support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Jones".

Councillor David Jones
Leader of Bury Council

Electronic or fax service of Legal documents is not accepted

Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW
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