

DAME CAROLINE DINENAGE DBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

29 January 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing as the Members of Parliament for the areas covered by Gosport Borough Council and Fareham Borough Council.

According to the BBC, since 2021 these Councils have overseen the addition of an average of 211 homes every year. Your Government has set a mandatory target for Gosport and Fareham to jointly add 1242 new homes a year, over a fivefold increase. These targets are impossible to achieve. In fact, it almost seems as though the Government intends for our district Councils to fail, and it has not escaped our attention that to miss these targets would, in light of the Government's proposals for the NPPF, permit speculative and unplanned housing development in our constituencies.

Considering the demographic changes expected in the future in our areas, which have a high elderly population, as well as the very clear lack of area suitable for development, particularly in Gosport, we wonder why the Government has set such punitively high targets for Gosport and Fareham Borough Councils.

Residents frequently raise issues of crowded roads, insufficient local healthcare provision, air pollution, and lack of green space. What would unrestricted housing development achieve besides leaving our constituents economically and socially less well off?

It is also a kick in the teeth that, at the same time as our housing targets have increased, big cities such as London have become less ambitious. Indeed, nearby Southampton City Council, which as you know is Labour controlled, have seen their target decreased by 12%.

Constituency office: 167 Stoke Road, Gosport, PO12 1SE

Tel: 02392 522 121 email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

DAME CAROLINE DINENAGE DBE MP



We all appreciate the national need for more housing, and that the default answer cannot always be 'no'. That's why we support the principle of brownfield first. However, when it comes to our areas there is no chance that local people will accept development in the quantity that you have dictated to them from Whitehall, and we hope you will reconsider these pie-in-the-sky targets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suella Braverman".

The Rt Hon Suella Braverman
MP for Fareham and Waterlooville

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Dinenage".

Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE
MP for Gosport

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Holmes".

Paul Holmes
MP for Hamble Valley
Shadow Minister for Housing

Note from Suella Braverman MP:

In addition to the above, I would like to highlight the fact that Fareham Borough Council has committed to building more than their fair share of houses through the Welborne housing development. Once completed, the Welborne project will have delivered 6,000 homes for families in Hampshire. Ignoring the Council and the community's hard work to deliver these new homes at Welborne and forcing arbitrary top-down housing targets is senseless.

Constituency office: 167 Stoke Road, Gosport, PO12 1SE

Tel: 02392 522 121 email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk