

22 March 2017



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



John Penrose MP

Dear Mr Butler,

Thank you for responding to my letter about local planning. The post on my website you're referring to in your email was published in January 2015, but the decision didn't come until 2016 – to give us almost £1,000,000 in funding to create a housing zone on brownfield land. You can see more details at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tens-of-thousands-of-homes-supported-by-housing-zone-funding> You may also have seen this article in the Mercury:

http://www.thewestonmercury.co.uk/news/council_gives_go_ahead_to_town_centre_regeneration_1_4493442

Secondly, I'm happy to confirm that I'm not suggesting high-rise housing should be any taller than existing town centre buildings – e.g. Sovereign Centre or Weston College (probably even shorter, such as the height of local trees). In my view, anything taller would need careful planning debate and decisions.

Finally, I understand that the National Land Use database is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-land-use-database-of-previously-developed-land-2012-nlud-pdl>, although it's unclear why new data hasn't been collected since 2012. I'm making some enquiries and will let you know what I find.

Yours sincerely,

John Penrose
MP for Weston-super-Mare