



Councillor Mark Cooper BEM

The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8P8

T: (028) 9598 2752
E: [REDACTED]@nihe.gov.uk
W: nihousingcouncil.org

Chief Executive
Local Councils

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Dear Chief Executive

At the last Housing Council meeting, discussions took place on housing need and potential opportunities to increase housing supply. Members noted the stark projected housing need for the next five years.

Local Development Plans are an opportunity to provide affordable and social, accessible and sustainable housing for those in need and can support the development of balanced and cohesive communities. This partnership working with different agencies will be important to help more people access suitable housing to meet their needs, and to improve wellbeing and quality of life. The Housing Council supports the Housing Executive role to help ensure everyone has access to good-quality, affordable and social housing and to promote an integrated, shared society.

Housing Council Members would urge all Councils within their Local Development Plans to ensure sufficient affordable and social housing is enabled through the planning system. Some Councils have already adapted the Policy HOU5 Affordable housing which states planning permission will be granted for residential development on sites greater than 0.1 hectares and/or containing five or more dwelling units where a minimum of 20% of units are provided as affordable and social housing.

On behalf of the Northern Ireland Housing Council, I would be grateful if your Council would take on-board the above request when drawing up the Local Development Plans.

Yours sincerely

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Councillor Mark Cooper (BEM)
Chair
Northern Ireland Housing Council