National CLT Network
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The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

16 June 2020

Dear Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP,

Supporting Economic Recovery through Community Led Housing

I understand that your Ministry is currently planning for how house building can support economic recovery. I am writing to explain the key role community led housing can play in economic recovery and why it is vital that the Community Housing Fund is renewed following its closure outside of London in March 2020.

Thanks to the Government's investment in the Community Housing Fund, there are 10,780 community led homes in live applications on Homes England's system. These can be immediately unlocked and delivered if the Fund is renewed. This is part of a broader pipeline of 23,000 homes. These projects are a critical source of contracts for SME builders, keeping them in business and supporting local economies. Community led housing groups are willing to take on sites mainstream providers will not - a helpful characteristic as developers retreat during this difficult commercial period. They are also building homes for frontline workers who have been pivotal to the pandemic, and many are already pioneering First Homes.

We look forward to further demonstrating the economic value of community led housing through research we are commissioning from Capital Economics, funded by the Nationwide Foundation and Power to Change.

The community led housing sector is ready to support your plans for recovery. However, it can only do so if the Community Housing Fund is renewed in the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. By renewing the Fund the Government will also deliver on the Conservative manifesto commitment to the sector.

I have copied this to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Yours sincerely



Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville MBE
Chair
National CLT Network

CC Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government