



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: PO2025/31130

Rachael Rooney
Interim Strategic Planning Manager: Place
North Herts Council

Via email: rachael.rooney@north-herts.gov.uk

17 November 2025

Dear Rachael Rooney, Nigel Smith, Ellen Higginson, Sara Saunders, Flo Churchill, Andrew Davie,

Thank you for your letter to Joanna Averley dated 15th October 2025, raising concerns over the delays to the new plan making system and the implications this is having for your councils. I'm replying to the letter as the person in MHCLG responsible for launching the new system.

I am pleased to hear about the combined enthusiasm for preparing your local plans early in the new system. I recognise that moving from the current system to the new system presents some uncertainty for plan makers, and we are trying to minimise these as much as we can. The information in the August edition of the Chief Planner's newsletter was intended to encourage you to undertake early work on your plan, so you are in a good position to progress once the new system is commenced. It is also important, however, that local authorities understand that, as the new system is underpinned by new primary and secondary legislation, plans will need to comply with all of the regulatory requirements.

We want to support councils to get plans in place as soon as possible, to achieve universal coverage of ambitious local plans, and I am grateful for the insights provided by representatives of your planning teams at meetings with officials this year. This has helped us to finalise our proposals for how we rollout the new system and support those authorities bringing a plan forward early.

It remains our intention that a package of plan-making reforms, enabled through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, will be brought forward later this year. This will include guidance to support local authorities in the early stages of plan-making which we intend to publish shortly.

All information associated with the upcoming new system will be published on our new website 'Create or Update a Local Plan' (Link: [Create or update a local plan - GOV.UK](#)). Anyone can sign up on the site to be notified when new information is added.

I hope this provides you with some assurance of our commitment to rolling out the new plan-making system as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Young
Deputy Director - Development Plans