



The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
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Patron HRH The Prince of Wales

30 September 2021

Dear Chancellor,

Your forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will be one of the most crucial in years. The “Levelling Up” agenda, the climate crisis and supporting our economy post-Covid will be at the centre of your thoughts, and in all these areas planning has a crucial role to play. We look forward to working with the new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

That is why the Royal Town Planning Institute is calling for an injection of £500 million for planning over a full CSR cycle. A well-funded planning system would support the government to build the homes we need, integrated into thriving communities with the green transport of the future, while tackling the climate crisis.

You will be aware that the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee [backed this call for investment](#) in our planning system, recommending that we should see “a Treasury commitment for an additional £500 million over four years for local planning authorities. Providing this certainty of funding should precede the introduction of the Planning Bill.”

Substantially greater resourcing for planning authorities is supported almost unanimously across the built environment sector, from major housebuilders and property investors to environmental charities and housing quality experts. Planning is the linchpin, acting as both the gateway to construction and the core tool for implementing Net Zero policies.

Your government aims to build 300,000 homes a year, reach Net Zero by 2050 and “Level Up” our communities. We cannot afford *not* to invest in planning.

I hope you will give serious consideration to the evidence set out in our submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Hills', is written over a vertical line that extends from the signature down to the typed name below.

Victoria Hills MRTPI FICE

Chief Executive

Royal Town Planning Institute