



Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing & Planning
Department for Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

15th October 2025

Dear Minister

I am writing to follow up on the question I raised in Parliament this week regarding infrastructure provision for new housing developments in my constituency. Your response, that local development plans and infrastructure funding statements should “address needs and opportunities,” – was unfortunately the sort of empty reassurance that offers little comfort to the communities in our area living with the consequences of your Government’s decisions.

I am deeply concerned about the direction of your Government’s housing policy and the impact it is having on the people of Cheadle constituency, particularly in Bramhall and Woodford. Labour’s assault on our Green Belt has created an impossible situation. By weakening protections, imposing inflated housing targets, and advancing plans for a 20,000-home Adlington New Town, your Government is showing a fundamental disregard for local infrastructure, the environment, and community consent.

Stockport’s housing allocation has been effectively doubled, yet there is no credible plan to ensure our public services, roads, or schools can cope. This is not strategic planning – it is policymaking driven by targets, not evidence.

Your claim that local plans will address these issues ignores the reality that your own department has repeatedly disrupted them. Stockport’s new Local Plan is now the third attempt in as many years: the first abandoned after your Conservative predecessor, Michael Gove, changed national policy; the second derailed after Labour’s post-election revisions to the NPPF and further increases to the housing allocation. The Council has been working at pace, but constant interference from your department has wasted valuable time and left communities like Bramhall & Woodford vulnerable to speculative development.

Meanwhile, local services are already under huge strain:

- Healthcare: GPs serving areas like Woodford are oversubscribed and Stepping Hill Hospital is struggling.
- Transport: No Sunday rail service in Bramhall for over a year, poor bus coverage, and worsening congestion.
- Flooding: Regular localised flooding as natural drainage is lost.
- Education: Schools are full and parents cannot secure local places.

These are not distant concerns – they are problems happening now, and they will only intensify if thousands more homes are built before infrastructure is in place.

The Adlington New Town proposal demonstrates this failure. You told Parliament it came from an

“independent taskforce”, yet that body reports to your Government, and you have chosen to proceed with an assessment that will inevitably clear the path for development. A 20,000-home settlement imposed without proper consultation risks overwhelming surrounding communities and permanently changing their character.

Your policies are leaving councils like Stockport in an impossible position – forced to approve unsustainable developments or face being overruled by Planning Inspectors. You advised that the best defence is an up-to-date local plan, but your own actions have made that impossible. This is not localism; it is top-down control disguised as partnership.

I agree with you that Britain needs more homes. But housing policy that ignores infrastructure, undermines local democracy, and concretes over the Green Belt is not responsible planning – it is short-sighted and damaging.

I therefore urge you to:

- Review Stockport’s housing allocation to reflect real infrastructure capacity.
- Pause new allocations pending a cumulative impact assessment, including Adlington.
- Restore robust Green Belt protections.
- Require infrastructure delivery before development approval.
- Meet with me and the Leader of Stockport Council to agree how you and your department can support a realistic, sustainable Local Plan.

If your Government truly wants to build the homes Britain needs, it must work with local communities, not against them. My constituents did not vote for their Green Belt to be destroyed or their services overwhelmed. They deserve better than to have their concerns ignored.

I look forward to your substantive response – not further platitudes about “commitment to housing delivery.” The people of Cheadle constituency expect and deserve more than that.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Morrison
Member of Parliament for Cheadle