



**All Party Urban Development Group**  
[www.allparty-urbandevelopment.org.uk](http://www.allparty-urbandevelopment.org.uk)

## **Press Release**

**19 FEBRUARY 2007 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Parliamentary inquiry asks: What will attract development and businesses to deprived areas?**

Today the All Party Urban Development Group launches its second inquiry which will examine the causes of low business investment and development in deprived areas.

The inquiry comes ahead of the Government's 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review which will review Government programmes designed to stimulate enterprise and regeneration in deprived areas – which have had mixed results.

The All Party Urban Development Group's inquiry will provide an independent cross-party analysis of the Government's attempts to stimulate enterprise; identify the barriers to business investment and development in deprived areas; and will recommend policy changes that will facilitate the conditions for businesses and the commercial property industry to develop and invest in deprived areas.

**Clive Betts MP, Chair of the All Party Urban Development Group, said:**

“With the Comprehensive Spending Review looking to rationalise and improve economic development and regeneration schemes this is an ideal time for the Group to examine the causes of low business investment and regeneration in deprived areas and provide a range of policies to incentivise investment and improve the opportunities for people trapped in these pockets of deprivation.”

The group is inviting written evidence from stakeholders on a range of questions which are available to download on [www.allparty-urbandevelopment.org.uk](http://www.allparty-urbandevelopment.org.uk) The deadline for written submissions is 9 March 2007.

## Notes to Editors

1. The All-Party Urban Development Group was established to provide a forum for MPs and peers from all political parties to promote urban renewal and sustainable development. The British Property Federation, together with the Centre for Cities at ippr, provides the secretariat for the Group.
2. The Group is chaired by Clive Betts MP (Labour, Sheffield Attercliffe). The vice-chairs are Andrew Pelling (Con, Croydon Central), Baroness Scott of Needham Market (Lib Dem), and Lord Richard Best (cross-bench, former chief executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation).
3. The Group will hold an oral evidence session where it will hear testimony from key public and private sector experts in House of Commons Committee Room 14 from 16.00 to 17.30 on 20 March. The session will be open to the public.
4. The Group is inviting written evidence from stakeholders on the following questions:
  - How serious a problem is low business investment in deprived areas? What are its implications?
  - What are the causes of low business investment in deprived areas? Are these different for different areas? Are there market failures at work and if so what forms do these take?
  - What factors will businesses and property developers take into consideration when deciding whether or not to invest in deprived areas?
  - What should be the role of Government in stimulating business investment in deprived areas?
  - How successful have Government programmes to increase enterprise in deprived areas been? What changes could be made to improve their effectiveness?
5. Contact for written submissions: Written submissions should be sent, preferably by email, to:

Patricia Seex  
Centre for Cities at ippr  
30-32 Southampton Street  
London WC2E 7RA  
Tel: 020 7470 6198  
p.seex@ippr.org

**Media:** For further press information, or interviews with Clive Betts MP contact:

Andrew Teacher 020 7802 0113 or 07968 12 4545 [ateacher@bpf.org.uk](mailto:ateacher@bpf.org.uk)

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For further information about the group go to: [www.allparty-urbandevelopment.org.uk](http://www.allparty-urbandevelopment.org.uk)

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