



All Party Urban Development Group

promoting sustainable development and urban renewal

Press Release

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New APPG takes regeneration and development to Parliament

A new all party parliamentary group will be launched next month to provide a forum for MPs and peers from all political parties to come together to raise awareness of matters concerning urban renewal and sustainable development.

The *All Party Parliamentary Urban Development Group* will be launched at a parliamentary reception on 19 July. Chaired by Clive Betts MP, the group's officers will set out the research programme and objectives for the first year.

Harnessing a wealth of experience and an array of expertise, the APUDG will take a fresh look at all issues surrounding sustainable development and urban renewal. It promises to identify barriers and opportunities, providing a holistic package of policy proposals to drive forward physical and economic regeneration.

A series of inquiry sessions will begin this autumn as the group starts to tackle a wide range of concerns, including:

- **infrastructure finance:** how to involve the private sector in forward funding infrastructure
- **deprived areas:** how to facilitate urban renewal and attract investment in deprived areas
- **bureaucracy:** how to streamline the structures, planning barriers and bureaucracy that hold back successful regeneration
- **housing supply:** how to encourage institutional investment in affordable housing
- **economic growth:** how to ensure growth plans are economically viable to avoid creating vast housing dormitories

The British Property Federation will be formally registered by the House of Commons to provide secretariat services for the group in partnership with Centre for Cities, the urban policy think tank carrying out the group's research.

Those standing for election to become officers of the group include:

- Honorary Chairman: Rt. Hon. Nick Raynsford MP – former Minister of State for Local and Regional Government
- Chairman: Clive Betts MP – former Government Whip and current Member of the Communities and Local Government Committee
- Vice Chairman: Lord (Richard) Best – Director, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Vice Chairman: James Brokenshire MP – Conservative MP for Hornchurch since 2005
- Vice Chairman: Baroness Scott of Needham Market – Liberal Democrat Shadow DCLG Minister

Clive Betts MP said: "The group will bring together a distinguished committee of MPs and peers, an experienced research team and an appealing and highly challenging work programme. We are

confident that the new All Party Parliamentary Urban Development Group will be a dynamic vehicle in Parliament to educate and inform parliamentarians about vital issues facing urban renewal and sustainable development.”

All party groups are independent and officially registered and recognised by the House of Commons. They carry considerable weight in the political world as they can request ministers to appear before them, make policy recommendations to the government and formulate media campaigns.

ENDS

For more information about the group contact:

Chris Carter
Secretariat to the All Party Urban Development Group
British Property Federation
7th Floor
1 Warwick Row
London
SW1E 5ER

T 020 7802 0116
F 020 7834 3442

Email: ccarter@bpf.org.uk

Secretariat support provided by:

