



23 December 2010

Housing Supply Division - Incentives Team  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Zone 1/A6, Bressenden Place, Eland House  
London  
SW1E 5DU  
By Email

Dear Sir or Madam,

## **New Homes Bonus consultation**

I am writing in response to the consultation on proposals for a New Homes Bonus. I am Chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) which comprises all the eleven local authorities which are wholly or partly within South Hampshire plus key external partners. The eleven councils are: Hampshire County Council; Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils; East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, and Test Valley Borough/District Councils and Winchester City Council.

The Partnership was formed in 2003 to work more collaboratively on tackling the economic challenges facing South Hampshire. Achieving faster economic growth was and remains a key objective of the Partnership. PUSH has developed a Sub-regional Housing Strategy and is tackling key housing issues on a sub-regional basis in tandem with its constituent local authorities, the Homes and Communities Agency, and other bodies.

I attach the Partnership's response to the questions posed in the consultation document. In particular, I would highlight three points within it:-

- the Bonus ought to be paid on the basis of gross and not net housing additions. This would minimise the administration burden on the local authorities and help support areas of regeneration;
- the proposal to reward local authorities for bringing empty properties back into use through the New Homes Bonus is welcomed and supported;
- the Government's proposed 80:20 split of the bonus payments between upper and lower tier authorities is a compromise between the powerful case for all of the Bonus to be paid to lower tier authorities and the arguments for some of it being paid to upper tier authorities. PUSH supports the consultation document's statement that this split should not be definitive but be a starting point for local negotiation.

**Together shaping the future of South Hampshire**

PUSH, 54a High Street, Fareham, PO16 7BG



I trust you will take these comments in to account in finalising the proposals.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Seán Woodward**  
**Chairman**  
**Partnership for Urban South Hampshire**