



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Hilary Jordan  
Planning (Community & Policy Development)  
Corporate Manager  
West Dorset District Council  
South Walks House  
South Walks  
DORCHESTER  
Dorset DT1 1UZ

Dear Ms Jordan,

As the MP for West Dorset, I obviously have a very considerable interest in the future of Dorchester, which is the largest town in my constituency.

I have been very conscious of the major developments which have been carried forward with very considerable success and high quality design both at Poundbury and at Brewery Square.

I am also conscious of the need to provide an appropriate supply of housing in West Dorset over coming years.

My own view is that a development to the north of Dorchester, as envisaged by the draft West Dorset Local Plan, would in principle be a sensible way to meet this need.

However, I could support this approach only if this large site were developed in line with the principles set out in my recent Review for the Chancellor and the Housing Secretary - namely, as a well-designed garden community with a serious master plan and serious design code established in advance. This will be needed to ensure both an appropriate diversity of types of housing and the creation of a place in which people will be proud to live, so that market absorption and the rate of build-out are optimised.

I am conscious that West Dorset does not at present have the resources to prepare a master plan and design code for such a site.

I therefore strongly support the bid by West Dorset District Council for a grant to fund the preparation of a master plan and design code.

Yours sincerely,

  
SIR OLIVER LETWIN