

[Green reaction to government's financial settlement for councils](#)

Reacting to the government's financial settlement for local government announced today, Green Party co leader Adrian Ramsay MP said:

"The funding settlement is barely enough to keep councils ticking over. It does very little to ease the underlying financial stresses that local authorities are facing after years of rising costs around social care, special educational needs and reduced government grants.

"The government's planning reforms and stated intentions for local government re-organisation mean stripping local people of a democratic say in how local services are delivered, while this latest funding round deprives councils of the means to deliver quality services for all.

"We need a real change in local government finances that enables councils to use money raised from those with the broadest shoulders to deliver quality services that people need and want."

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[Green Party reaction to government and regulators 'breaking law' over sewage spills](#)

Reacting to news that government and regulators [have broken the law](#) by being too lenient on water companies that spill sewage, and on the day [Thames Water seeks a £3bn bailout](#), Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay MP said:

"For too long billions have been leaking out to shareholders instead of going into fixing our broken water system. But it will be water customers who are expected to bail out this failed model of privatisation through steep hikes to water bills.

"The way to end this fiasco and ensure government and regulators keep within the law is to put failing water companies into special administration and ultimately to bring water back into public ownership."

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[Green Party reaction to launch of Devolution White Paper](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

Reacting to the government's [White Paper on the reorganisation of local government](#), Green Party MP Ellie Chowns said:

“There is much to be welcomed in this White Paper including strengthening the rights of communities to purchase cherished local assets such as youth clubs, libraries or sport facilities; increasing powers over control of local transport, better alignment of public services including police, health and probation and removing the need for government to sign off decisions for locally specific things like cycle lanes.

“The big gap is the democratic deficit in Labour’s plans. This risks being devolution that steals power away from local people. We have to ask, how will local communities get heard? And who will hold mayors to account?”

“We need to keep the local in local government. That means decision making as close as possible to the people most impacted; it involves trusting local communities to know what is best for them and supporting them with investment to deliver real change. And true democracy must include a fair proportional voting system for local elections, which seems to be a glaring omission from this White Paper.”

16 December 2024 / 16 December 2024 by [Green Party](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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[Greens say local government reorganisation “steals power away from local people”](#)

Responding to measures contained within the government's [White Paper on English Devolution](#), which the government will announce today, Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay MP said:

“Local democracy is in urgent need of reform but this White Paper does not deliver the real change our local councils need.

“It steals power away from local people and risks making the real changes required harder to achieve, including building the homes we need, cleaning our rivers, reforming social care and greening our local economies.

“We should trust local communities to make the right decisions on homes, food, energy, nature and adapting to the climate crisis.

“Instead, these plans risk moving power away from local councils to huge remote super councils and regional mayors.

“Devolution must mean real decentralisation of powers and funding so local councils can deliver the improvements to services that their communities need.

“If we want warmer homes; affordable, reliable accessible public transport, and flood defences that are fit for purpose, we must invest in local democracy.

“Without power devolved down so that decisions are made closest to where they have the greatest impact, people will grow ever more cynical about politics.

“Our fragile democracy can’t afford that.

“We will be pressing for local government to be kept local and made more democratic.

“That means:

- taking decisions as close as possible to the people most impacted
- trusting local communities to know what is best for them
- supporting them with investment to deliver real change.
- fair voting for local elections using proportional representation.

“Then, we can have the green transformation our country desperately needs, including warmer, affordable homes for people to rent or buy, reliable public transport and adapting to the climate crisis which is already underway.”

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[New planning framework “panders” to](#)

profit driven private housing developers say Greens

Responding to [the “planning overhaul” announced today by government](#), Green Party Co-Leader, Adrian Ramsay, said:

“This new planning framework from Government fails to tackle the housing crisis head on and instead panders yet further to the interests of private developers whose main interest is lining their pockets.

By pitting what’s happening as a binary battle between builders and blockers, the government has insulted local communities and local government, all of whom desperately want affordable homes and fully understand the importance of balancing that with the need for food, nature and local energy.

Instead, the Government should be going head to head with the developers who are fixated on one thing only – maximising their profits by building yet more executive unaffordable homes at the expense of council homes for social rent and more affordable homes to buy. That means being tougher with developers over requiring a higher proportion of genuinely affordable and homes to rent and to buy as part of new developments. Equally developers must be made to honour real commitments to invest in local services that housebuilding does put additional pressure on.

This all can be done and still reverse the disastrous decline in biodiversity and protect local democracy. But this has to be done with communities, including through strengthening the role of neighbourhood plans, not imposed onto them by profit driven developers.

And Ministers should be taking this opportunity to look in the round at the housing crisis, and prioritising funds for increasing supply and ending right to buy, alongside building the right homes in the right place and the right price.

As it stands, this planning framework confirms many of the fears of those who not only want to protect this country’s degraded nature. We are not on course to meet most of the legally-binding nature recovery targets we have signed up to and this Planning Framework makes it even less likely we will hit them. This is more than a missed opportunity, it’s a dereliction of duty. We can and we must tackle both the housing crisis and the nature crisis. This new NPPF currently does neither.

The Government isn’t only bringing more and more land into its definition of ‘grey belt’ which can be built on, it is removing any local democratic say in the process. The deputy prime minister’s claim that this will remove “chaos and subjectiveness” from the system doesn’t wash. People have the right to have a say over major changes to their local community. This is local democracy in action.”

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