

# Government promises increase in per pupil funding

In today's debate on money for schools the Secretary of State promised minimum per pupil amounts for every school under his new formula. I pointed out that this year some schools in Wokingham are still below the minimum thresholds he is proposing, and urged him to speed up the adjustment of cash for them.

## Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, writes for today's...

### I want to build more beautiful houses

Affordable housing does not have to be poorly made – and it must take local communities into account

SAJID JAVID



Whether they're buying or renting, living in the private sector or in social housing, everyone can all agree: when their home and local neighbourhood look like and have they make us feel. Looks matter. As Winston Churchill once said: "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us."

Design quality is not just something that is nice to have if you can afford it and train your Le Corbusier from your Elton John. Housing it is fundamental to every aspect of life. So when it comes to delivering the homes our country desperately needs, I don't believe there should be a trade-off between quantity, quality and affordability. That's why we are

holding a design conference today that will bring together more than 400 experts from across the country to ensure that, when we build more homes, we also build better homes.

From the elegant squares and crescents of the Georgian period to modern town houses, via Victorian terraces and the garden suburbs of the 20th century, Britain is a world leader in building great homes. But we have to consider how we can leave the next generation with a strong legacy and an inspiring vision of what we want: our villages, towns and cities to look and feel like in years to come. Today's new build is, potentially, tomorrow's prized property.

With that in mind, it is even more important that the industry has a chance to showcase great examples of well-designed development, not just focusing on trying to meet short-term housing targets but aiming to become a much-loved part of the fabric of local areas. These include *Beauty In My Backyard*, from the Prince's Foundation – or *Blurry*, A positive vision of property, it really sums up what we all want from new homes, which is ultimately somewhere we are proud to live in and next door to. This is essentially what good design comes down to.

With fresh generations of first-time buyers expecting the highest-quality homes we're building with them in mind comes a deposit of new developers wanting to win over communities ahead of building the homes our country needs, better quality design has never been so important.

This is about much more than just considering whether high-rise blocks "goes in the sky". It's about whether development is in keeping with, and supporting, local communities, and ensuring that it has real character. No one wants to live in or live next door to brick boxes that could be anywhere, and there is no reason why they should have to.

Britain has always been a trailblazer for world-class design. And now there is new technology that could help us build more homes faster while also keeping quality high and offering people choice, including through modern methods of construction such as modular homes.

As we consider what our legacy to the 21st century should be, we have to take into account the wants and needs not just of the next generation but future generations. It is a legacy that allows our children and grandchildren to enjoy the same opportunities to prosper and put down roots as we did?

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Are we being as bold and ambitious as we should be in meeting the challenges of our age?

The Government is playing its part. Last month, the Local Minister announced planning reforms that strengthened the expectations for design quality and community engagement. This means that any plans for new housing developments need to give much more consideration to the character of the local area, so that what is being proposed complements what is already there and meets the needs and expectations of the community.

And the Government is backing this with £5 billion in funding to ensure that, ahead of building new homes, the existing community and potential new residents know roads, schools and other facilities will also be built.

We want to build on this work and encourage stronger collaboration across the industry, so that high-quality design is the norm, rather than the exception. But we recognise that this is an issue that is bigger than government and the housing sector. It is about how, in shaping the places where we live, we shape lives.

*Sajid Javid is Secretary of State for Housing*

Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, writes for today's Daily Telegraph: "Affordable housing does not have to be poorly made – and it must take local communities into account"

## Treasury minister John Glen outlines the package of measures...

Treasury minister John Glen outlines the package of measures Conservatives in government are taking to tackle unlawful lending and increase the amount of money seized from loan sharks to support vulnerable victims.

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## **Why we need to ban upskirting**

Upskirting is the act of taking a photo up a woman's skirt without her consent.

In 2009 it was made illegal in Scotland but shockingly it remains legal in England and Wales.

**Authorities can ask a perpetrator to delete the photo but under current law no further prosecution is possible.**

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## **Press release: UK and Welsh governments reach agreement on EU Withdrawal Bill**

The UK Government and the Welsh government today confirmed that they have reached an agreement on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill that will be tabled in the UK Parliament tomorrow and that means the Welsh Government will now recommend that the National Assembly for Wales pass a Legislative Consent Motion for the Bill.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster David Lidington MP welcomed the agreement saying it was a 'significant achievement that will provide legal certainty, increase the powers of the devolved legislatures and also respect the devolution settlements.' The Minister said that the Government would now table amendments to the Bill on Wednesday along with the publication of a related Inter Government Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.

The EU Withdrawal Bill will significantly increase the powers of the devolved administrations in the UK as powers currently controlled by the EU are returned to the UK. The UK Government has been in detailed discussions with the devolved administrations for some time now about putting in place the necessary arrangements for the 153 policy areas returning from the EU to Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast in a way that strengthens and respects the devolution settlement but also protects the vital UK internal market.

The deadline for tabling changes to Clause 11 of the Bill at the House of

Lords Report stage is tomorrow (Wednesday). No agreement has been reached with the Scottish Government.

The UK Government had already proposed changes to the Bill that mean the vast majority of EU powers that intersect with devolved competences will go directly to the devolved parliaments and assemblies when we leave the EU. There would also be a provision for the UK Government to maintain a temporary status quo arrangement over a small number of returning policy areas where a new UK framework had not been implemented in time for EU Exit. This is to protect the UK internal market and ensure no new barriers are created within the UK for consumers and businesses.

David Lidington said:

I am very pleased that the many months of detailed negotiation have got us to a point where we have now reached an agreement with the Welsh Government on changes to the Bill. This is a significant achievement that will provide legal certainty, increase the powers of the devolved governments and also respect the devolution settlements. The UK Government has made considerable changes to the EU Withdrawal Bill to address issues that have been raised in Parliament and by the devolved administrations

It is disappointing that the Scottish Government have not yet felt able to add their agreement to the new amendments that Ministers and officials on all sides have been working on very hard over recent weeks. I thank them for that effort and hope that they may still reconsider their position. All governments agree that it would be best for all parts of the UK if we had an agreed way forward on the EU Withdrawal Bill.