



London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
020 7993 5754 • chairman@londonforum.org.uk

Rt Hon. Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

16th February 2020

Dear Prime Minister

Final report of the Commission on Building Better, Building Beautiful

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies* welcomes the publication of the above report. As the umbrella organisation for the Civic and Conservation movement across London, we strongly support the emphasis on protecting our built heritage, higher design standards and improving the urban environment while meeting housing need.

The Secretary of State's positive statement about the Government's intention to implement the report's recommendations is particularly welcome.

We also welcome the chapter on community involvement with its emphasis on early engagement, community participation, and encouraging community-led development. We have long advocated better involvement with communities at the local plan phase, as the report suggests.

As you know, I was also a member of the your Outer London Commission, which explored the potential for well-planned intensification of parts of Outer London.

Other excellent recommendations include better enforcement, and the removal of the tax distortions which encourage demolition rather than refurbishment. We also strongly support measures to improve air quality and increase access to greenery.

We note the recent Policy Exchange report written by your new housing adviser advocating more clarity and certainty in the planning system. We suggest that community-led options, as suggested in the BBBB report, should be explored to achieve those goals. As you know, Local Development Orders allow planning authorities to create the equivalent of a zoning system at present, although very few choose to do so.

*The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies represents over a hundred member civic societies and community groups, which in turn have approximately a hundred thousand underlying individual members. For more information, see www.londonforum.org.uk

Clearly change is necessary if London is to deliver the high rates of development required to meet housing need. The London Forum believes that by adopting the core recommendations of the BBBB report, this challenging goal can be achieved in a popular and politically sustainable way.

Please could you let us know what steps the Government will take to implement the report, and in particular what timeframe you envisage? We are keen to see you press ahead as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', with a stylized flourish at the end.

p.p. Peter Eversden MBE
Chair, London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies

cc:

Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing

Rt Hon. Christopher Pincher MP
Minister of State for Housing

Paul Scully MP
Minister for London