

The Rt. Hon Angela Rayner M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister,
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government
2 Marsham Street
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Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council

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15 August 2025

Dear Ms Rayner,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to HM Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill. We wish to make clear our opposition to the damaging changes contained within this measure – specifically part 3 – that will threaten existing environment protections and undermine efforts to aid nature recovery.

While the Vale recognises the pressing need to deliver homes and clean energy infrastructure to address the affordability and climate crises facing the country, the council does not believe that this should be achieved at the expense of our natural world. Moreover, we would strongly argue that the UK's current environmental protections are not a blocker to housing delivery and growth but instead are a necessary safeguard to ensure that we do not cause further irreparable damage to our existing ecosystems.

Vale of White Horse District Council is, therefore, calling upon HM Government to reconsider its current position and withdraw part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council