

This council condemns the words and attitudes attributed to Kevin McKenna MP in the Guardian article by Polly Toynbee.

There is a need for housing that local people can afford - not housing principally aimed at those moving in from London which local people can rarely afford. McKenna's comments that "60% of residents commute to London" is both inaccurate and is not something that represents sustainable communities. 4 hours commuting each day is bad for health, social cohesion and domestic stability. It is something that needs challenging not championing.

McKenna's comments about local Councils not having the power to hold developers to account is in itself a reason to oppose such developments unless they have local support - not a reason for Whitehall to step in and take over.

Instead of looking to Whitehall to determine planning, McKenna should be fighting for Councils to have a level playing field and not allow developers to constantly bypass democracy when they choose to.

This council instructs the Leader to formally convey in writing our disappointment at Kevin McKenna MP's comments and attitude.

Proposed: Cllr Monique Bonney

Seconded: Cllr Mike Baldock