

Amendment Agenda point 11: - Motion – Letter to MP

~~This council condemns the words and attitudes attributed to Kevin McKenna MP in the Guardian article by Polly Toynbee. This Council recognises that 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. The Council disagrees with Kevin McKenna MP's recent comments in the Guardian that "60% of residents commute to London" is both and believes that to be 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. The Council was dismayed at the recent call in of a large housing proposal by the secretary of state 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, and asks Kevin McKenna MP should be fighting to fight for local Councils, who are closest to theses kinds of decisions and their impacts, to have the ultimate say in local development. 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 the Secretary of State's decision to call in the Highstead Valley application and the view of the Council that it is Local Government that should be making key decisions such as planning on behalf of their residents. at Kevin McKenna MP's comments and attitude~~

Proposed by: Councillor Hannah Perkin

Seconded by: Councillor Charles Gibson