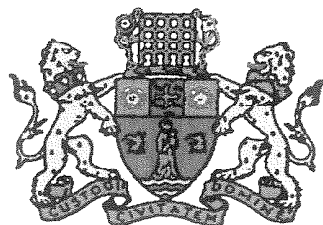


# CITY OF WESTMINSTER



**FROM: COUNCILLOR ROBERT DAVIS DL**  
**Chief Whip**  
**Cabinet Member for Planning**  
**Chairman: General Purposes Committee**

**Westminster City Council**  
**64 Victoria Street**  
**London SW1E 6QP**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Ms Kate Barker  
Barker Review of Planning  
4th floor  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Ms Barker

I read with interest your interim report on Land Use Planning. You raise the issue of the increasing number of refusals made by Planning Authorities. While I am pleased that in Westminster we have not seen our rate of refusals rise, you should be aware that the increase in refusals by many Local Authorities is the direct result of the targets imposed by Central Government on planning authorities.

The main criteria on which Local Authorities are awarded their Planning Delivery Grant at the moment is the speed with which they process applications – rather than the quality of the decisions made. This has clearly had a perverse effect whereby Local Authorities are incentivised to refuse an application, in order to meet their targets and so achieve their maximum grant, rather than continue to negotiate with developers to achieve a better scheme which could then be granted permission.

I suggest you ask the Government to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a long horizontal line.

COUNCILLOR ROBERT DAVIS DL  
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING