Elizabeth Truss MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

HM Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road

London SW1A 2HQ

Dear Elizabeth Truss MP

 **Extending the Community Housing Fund**

I am writing to you regarding the extension of the Community Housing Fund.

I am pleased that, just six months after it was launched, Homes England has received applications that could deliver more than 3,500 homes. Many more applications are being developed, and so the pipeline will doubtless grow over the coming year.

However, I am concerned that the Fund closes for bids in December, and that many groups will be unable to secure the capital funding for affordable housing required to deliver their homes. It would let down communities across the country, and in my constituency, were this to happen. It would also represent a waste of valuable government investment in developing the pipeline, and withdraw what could be useful counter-cyclical investment in my constituency’s housebuilding market.

The deadline in London, where the Fund is administered by the GLA, is March 2023. It is not right that Homes England has a much shorter deadline.

I would like the Government to extend the Community Housing Fund to at least March 2023.

You have previously told the community led sector that a decision will be made in the Spending Review. I would like you to explain what the timetable and process for this will be.

I would also urge you to ensure a decision is made in a timely fashion, so that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Homes England can take the necessary steps to extend the Fund before it closes to bids in December. Medium term certainty will encourage more groups to develop projects, and so help to build more homes.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

[MPs name]