

Cllr Emily Smith and Cllr Susan Brown Oxfordshire Growth Board 135 Eastern Avenue Park Drive Milton Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 4SB

Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP

Minister of State for Housing

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Dear Cllr Smith and Cllr Brown,

Thank you for your letter of 28 January to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP about the Community Housing Fund. I am replying as Minister of State for Housing.

I am grateful for your support for the Community Housing Fund, which has been the principal source of Government support for the community-led housebuilding sector in England in recent years, making available £163m in grants over 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The Government recognises that the community-led housing sector offers significant potential for helping to meet housing need across England and the wide-ranging benefits that you describe are noted. In addition to helping increase the rate of delivery of new housing, community-led housing will help diversify the housebuilding sector, improve design and construction quality, develop modern methods of construction and sustain local communities and local economies. The support and close involvement of the local community enables the community-led approach to secure planning permission and deliver housing that could not be brought forward through mainstream development.

Departmental budgets for 2021/22 have been confirmed at the recent Comprehensive Spending Review and I am pleased to be able to tell you that £4m in revenue grant funding has now been made available to reopen the Community Housing Fund. Officials are currently considering how these funds should be most effectively deployed. In addition, organisations that are registered as providers of social housing may seek capital funding from the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme operated outside London by Homes England.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope you find this information helpful.

RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP