



**East Hampshire
Conservatives**

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NEWS RELEASE

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release

Hinds welcomes proposal to scrap discredited Planning system

East Hampshire's Conservative candidate for Parliament, Damian Hinds, says new Tory policies on planning would make a huge difference to our area. Top-down planning and Whitehall targets would effectively be scrapped, to be replaced with collaborative working and new incentives to promote and reward the creation of local jobs and homes.

With a Conservative government in place, our locally-elected representatives would be in direct control of many more decisions, and could therefore be held accountable. Through the democratic process, local communities could decide on the type and extent of development.

Under policy initiatives just announced, Conservatives would:

- Abolish the undemocratic and ineffective tier of regional planning overseen by unelected quangos. This would include shredding the South East Plan
- Reward councils and communities by match-funding council tax for six years on new homes and retaining the business rate on additional business activity, in contrast to the current regime which effectively penalises development
- Retain the new South Downs National Park and other environmental designations which protect the character of our landscape
- Tackle 'garden grabbing' and over-development in residential roads, giving East Hants District Council new powers to protect the character of neighbourhoods
- Increase council and police powers to tackle unauthorised Traveller sites and illegal trespass

- Get rid of the restrictive parking rules that have impacted residential developments; instead ensuring more parking spaces are provided at family homes and near local shops, taking the pressure off crowded residential streets

Damian Hinds said: “I speak to many people in East Hampshire who feel let down by this government’s planning system. The rules on parking spaces have been totally inappropriate for areas like East Hampshire. ‘Garden grabbing’ development has happened in many places. It can be a source of immense frustration and concern. Planning rules have been too complex, sometimes even counter-productive, and too many decisions are taken by unelected officials, ignoring the views of local residents.

“This bold new Conservative vision will put local residents in the driving seat to help shape our community, transferring power from Whitehall bureaucrats and unelected regional quangos. This will help deliver new homes and jobs for East Hants, whilst championing local democracy and protecting our local amenity and environment.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Conservative policy on Planning in full can be found at:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/opensourceplanning>