

CRPE's response to Combined Autumn Statement and Spending Review

25.11.15

CPRE reacts to the Autumn Statement and Spending Review, where the Chancellor made a number of announcements on issues affecting the countryside.

Paul Miner, planning campaign manager at the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), comments:

"Although we welcome a focus on brownfield development, we're wary of moves to develop brownfield sites in the Green Belt - many Green Belt sites classed as 'brownfield' contain a lot of valuable open land, often historic parkland, which should be kept undeveloped.

"The Chancellor wasn't clear on the implications of the 'delivery test' for local authorities on housing, but we'd remind him that our recent report found most or all current local plan housing targets to be undeliverable because of the reliance on private sector builders to deliver on the targets set. A 'delivery test' should therefore apply to developers and the Government (through providing necessary supporting infrastructure funding) as well as local authorities.

"We also remain keen to hear more about the previously promised £1 billion Brownfield Fund and would like to see a greater emphasis on local consultation and neighbourhood plans."