

# Roundtable on the Impact of Environmental Regulations on Development

with Lord Moylan, Chair of the House of Lords Built Environment Committee

Parliamentary estate and online via zoom



Lord Moylan

## Introduction

The PLG's roundtable meeting with Lord Moylan, Chair of the House of Lords Built Environment Committee brought together a diverse cohort of stakeholders to engage in a comprehensive discussion on the intricate challenges of environmental regulations vis a vis development. Lord Moylan's incisive analysis shed light on the nuanced dynamics at play, from the tensions between EU laws and domestic regulations to the systemic inefficiencies within the planning system. The meeting served as a vital platform for stakeholders to articulate concerns, share insights, and advocate for coordinated action in navigating the intricate nexus of regeneration, environmental stewardship, and equitable development.

## Key Takeaways

- The discussion illuminated the intricate challenges stemming from conflicts between EU laws and domestic regulations, especially concerning the delicate balance between meeting housing construction targets and preserving the environment. Participants noted how navigating these regulatory complexities often leads to bottlenecks and impediments in development projects. Namely, provisions such as those around Nutrient Neutrality which arose from a ruling in the European Court of Justice.
- Participants underscored the pressing need for improved coordination among government departments involved in planning and development. They highlighted



how disjointed efforts and lack of cohesive strategies hinder effective decision-making and exacerbate inefficiencies within the planning system. It was suggested that better coordination could streamline processes and facilitate more coherent and sustainable development outcomes.

- Lord Moylan emphasised the significance of adopting a strategic, long-term approach to planning, coupled with substantial investment in critical infrastructure and environmental initiatives. Participants recognised that achieving meaningful progress in development requires sustained commitment and investment over time, rather than short-term, piecemeal solutions.
- Participants expressed a shared sense of urgency in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing development. There was a strong call for proactive measures, streamlined processes, and equitable outcomes to advance regeneration and levelling up initiatives. It was recognised that meaningful progress would require concerted efforts from all stakeholders, backed by political will and sustained commitment to driving positive change in development practices.

## Issues raised

- Participants discussed the challenges associated with securing adequate funding and resources for urban development projects. Concerns were raised about the need for sufficient financial support to implement long-term strategies and infrastructure projects effectively.
- There were discussions about the need for reforms to the planning system to address its complexity and inefficiency. Participants highlighted the importance of simplifying processes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making.
- The issue of affordable housing provision was brought up, with participants emphasising the importance of ensuring that housing developments cater to a diverse range of socioeconomic needs. Strategies for incentivising the provision of affordable housing and promoting social inclusion were discussed.

We would like to thank the members of our Advisory Board for their contributions and continuing support.

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