



Community Planning Alliance

There are now
over **700**
communities on
our map

All campaigning against
inappropriate development





Yes, Secretary of State

Some insights into the Workings of Central Government

Click





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- Departments
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- Who is in charge?
- Critical role of the Treasury
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Departments

- Prime Minister
- Treasury
- DLUHC
- DEFRA
- Transport
- Business and Trade
- Science, Innovation and Technology
- Energy Security and Net Zero
- Role as sector “Trade Unions”
- Cabinet Office





Agencies etc

- Delivery not Policy (-ish)
- Planning Inspectorate
- National Highways
- Network Rail Homes England
- NDPBs – Regulators - Environment Agency, FCA, Charity Commission etc but also Museums etc





Who is in charge?

- All Departments are run by a member of the Cabinet, usually titled “Secretary of State”
- Supported by one or more Junior Ministers “Ministers of State” or “Parliamentary Under Secretary”
- Aided by an unpaid “Parliamentary Private Secretary” – link to parliamentary Party
- Not a trivial job – Two of Margaret Thatcher’s PPS were murdered by the IRA.
- Permanent Secretary is senior civil servant in the department – Sir Humphrey- meet on Wednesday mornings – Accounting Officer
- Special Advisers – SPADs – Sir Richard Mottram quote
- Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers – Potential useful target for logical arguments
- List of Ministerial Responsibilities – Latest 20 Jul 2023





Critical Role of Treasury

- Only Dept with two Cabinet Members - Chancellor and Chief Sec
- Chief Sec controls all gov't expenditure – “Star Chamber” etc
- All Departmental expenditure is on sufferance – delegated from Treasury – it literally is their money
- Very Small Dept - 2,000 out of 488,000 – Gov't spending - 3 of 26 Directors, 1 DD of 106 looks at DLUHC
- Revenue and Capital – we are generally interested in Capital
- “Mother handing out coppers to the children”
 - Recent DLUHC withdrawal of capital expenditure approval
- Annularity, “January crisis”, Spending Review, Hypothecation

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Cabinet Office

- Coordinates but with increasing authority
- Took over Covid procurement for example
- Temporary home for the talented, but out of step





Parliamentary Scrutiny

- Public Accounts Committee
- NAO
- Select Committees
 - Reports, Appointments, Letters
 - Chairman elected
 - Approachable – attend and observe
- Parliamentary Questions
 - 6 weekly departmental cycle
 - Urgent, Routine, Written, Planted
- MP's letters





All Party Parliamentary Groups and Lobbying

- APPGs
 - Function and meetings
 - Secretariat
 - List of over 755 including nearly all countries
 - Housing and Planning - Royal Town Planning Institute
 - Housing and Social Mobility - Communities that Work
 - Housing in the North - Northern Housing Consortium Ltd
 - Housing Market and Housing Delivery - College Green Group
 - Lobbying





Any Questions



Thank you for listening

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Appendix – Public Money

- Requirements for use of public funds
 - budget cover in the collectively agreed multi-year budgets
 - with a few exceptions, parliamentary authorisation for each year's drawdown of funds through an Estimate, which is then approved as a Supply and Appropriation Act (see section 2.2)
 - adequate Treasury consents (see section 2.3)
 - assurance that the proposed expenditure is regular and proper (section 2.4)
 - sufficient specific legal powers - though see section 2.5 for some limited exceptions
- Examples of transactions requiring explicit Treasury consent
 - extra statutory payments similar to but outside statutory schemes
 - ephemeral ex gratia payment schemes, eg payments to compensate for official errors
 - special severance payments, eg compromise agreements in excess of contractual commitments
 - non-standard payments in kind
 - unusual financial transactions, eg imposing lasting commitments or using tax avoidance
 - unusual schemes or policies using novel techniques

