

## Hopes for boost to rural housing development

Written by editor

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**This week's housing White Paper could bring a boost to new house building in rural areas** although new development is being held back by local authorities' outdated local plans and rises in planning application fees, says the landowners' organisation the CLA. Ross Murray, president of the CLA, said: "Landowners are a large part of the solution to meeting our country's housing needs...rural areas will benefit from Government acceptance of CLA proposals to amend national planning policy so as to promote thriving villages and small scale housing developments."

The association believes local authorities should be required to update plans every five years and it points to greater opportunities for private landowners to provide affordable housing. It calls for 'build to rent' proposals to be clarified to unlock the potential for a significant boost in affordable housing. But Mr Murray warned that the 40% increase in fees proposed for smaller planning applications, "...could well be counterproductive, stopping small developments being brought forward." He also warned of 'prohibitive' appeal fees.