

News Release

NFB WELCOMES PLANNING REVIEW

The National Federation of Builders has welcomed the Government's announcement to speed up the planning system.

'Planning Applications: a faster and more responsive system' was launched last week by Communities Secretary Hazel Blears, Business Secretary John Hutton and Housing and Planning Minister Caroline Flint and will be carried out by Joanna Killian, Chief Executive of Essex County Council and David Pretty, former Group Chief Executive of Barratt Developments PLC.

The House Builders Association (HBA) – a division of the NFB – said hundreds of frustrated small and medium sized housebuilders would be eagerly awaiting its conclusions.

Julia Evans, Chief Executive of the NFB, said: "This is a step forward.

This inquiry focuses on a number of issues that we have been highlighted to the Government's Better Regulation Executive in recent discussions, particularly the complexity of the new application processes and the slow response of a number of statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and the Highways Agency.

"We look forward to working closely with the Review members and to providing practical examples of the way in which relatively minor changes to planning processes could produce significant improvements in performance."

ENDS 28 March 2007

Issued on behalf of the National Federation of Builders by Citypress.