

June 5, 2015 9:47 pm

Affordable housing is vital to UK's economic success

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Sir, The housing crisis has the potential to derail the UK's economic recovery ("Property puzzle", The Big Read, June 2). The only way to defuse it is through leadership and creativity, and Greg Clark, the new communities secretary, is making the right noises by demanding that councils take steps to release more land for housing.

However, unless this release is accompanied by a strategic plan to ensure that it supports those who are priced out of the open market and salaried out of social housing into ownership it could well be self-defeating. In turn it could lead to yet more luxury developments in our inner cities and price nurses, teachers and social workers further and further out from where they work and want to live.

The Department for Communities and Local Government should encourage councils to make smaller patches of land available for housing and support authorities, such as the Greater London Authority, to provide developers with equity support if they are delivering genuinely affordable housing for workers in our cities.

Unless more intermediate buyers have the option of owning a home in Britain's inner cities, and in particular London, businesses and vital public services will see the pool of talented workers shrink and this will be hugely damaging for our continued economic success.

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Letter in response to this letter:

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AUTHORS' NOTE

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