

TOLSON CALLS FOR MORE LAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ahead of the debate on affordable housing in parliament this week Scottish Liberal Democrat Communities spokesperson Jim Tolson MSP has laid down a motion in parliament calling on the Executive to make more land available for housing developments.

Commenting, Mr Tolson said "House prices have risen by 180 per cent in the last ten years. I want to see the new Scottish Executive make the provision of affordable housing a national priority.

In their 2007 manifesto, the SNP promised that every new housing development would set aside at least 25 per cent of its stock for affordable housing. Unfortunately, until they recognise that one of the major obstacles to the development of affordable housing is the lack of available land, this target will never be met.

The Executive must enter into negotiations with land holding bodies such as the Ministry of Defence, the NHS and the Forestry Commission to ensure that the necessary land is made available to meet the demand for affordable housing across Scotland."