

To: The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Dear Secretary of State,

Objection to planning consultation on permitted development changes

We are writing to object to the Government's consultation which would allow:

- Permitted development rights for change of use from office to residential to become permanent; and
- Allow permitted development rights for change of use from light industrial and warehousing to residential.

These proposals would extinguish the current exemption area for Tech City and the wider creative cluster in Hackney which was hard fought for during the Government's previous consultation and further put at risk the Priority Employment Areas of Hackney and east London.

The proposals would enable landowners and the development industry to convert existing commercial buildings into residential without businesses or the authorities having the opportunity to have a say.

If the Government's proposals were put into place, there would be serious impacts on London's significant, but fragile, cluster of technology and creative businesses. Property would be developed and businesses would be forced to relocate, dissipating the Tech City cluster and placing 40,000 jobs at risk.

Instead of supporting the Government's simultaneous drive to diversify and grow the economy, it is our strong belief that the Government's planning proposals would significantly harm the business clusters at the forefront of this growth, undermining London's standing as Europe's pre-eminent location for technology start-ups and investment.

We, like many businesses and organisations based in east London, ask that the Government reconsiders implementing these detrimental proposals.

Yours sincerely,

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