

**The Browne Partnership
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By email

Dear Steve,

August 16 2017
ref: open 01

I am writing this open letter to you as the Leader of our Council at a time when we understand that you and your colleagues may be considering how our council services might best be organized without a senior officer with overall responsibility for all those services now covered by Rede.

I am writing to you because I have spent a lifetime serving Councils. I have set out some details of that experience at the back of this note.

The great assets our Council have are its budget and its power to act as the Local Planning Authority for all the land in our borough. At this time our budget is tightly controlled and the land is a finite and an ever more precious asset.

In recent years our Council has acted more as a development agency than as a Local Planning Authority, separating out the promotion of development from the plan making function.

As a result, our planning committee has been asked to approve major schemes which "depart" from our adopted plans.

Your re-organization gives you the chance to unite the making and up-dating of our Local Plan with detail development plans for areas of change and with planning briefs for major sites which accord with their context and are consistent with approved policies.

You can then unite development control and enforcement with plan making and re-establish the central role of the Planning Committee and its chairman with the officers responsible for these services

This is a well tried approach. It would help the Council to ensure that planning decisions are consistent with its own policies and that policies can be regularly updated to meet the changing needs of residents.

I hope you will have an opportunity to organize your services along these lines.

Yours sincerely

Denis Browne

Denis M. Browne AA Dip, RIBA, ARIAS, Dip Dist TP, MRTPI, FRSA
Martine Browne BA Edin, Dip Landscape.

Training: AA School Diploma, (architecture) Leeds College Diploma with Distinction).

Awards: MacClaren Travelling Scholarship (Housing in Europe)
Silver Medal Town Planning (finalist) for thesis.

Experience: London County Council 1st UK Comprehensive High School
Housing projects in Leeds, Sheffield and London,

Senior Posts: Deputy Chief Architect and Planning Officer Livingston New Town,
Deputy City Architect Edinburgh
Director of Development LB Hammersmith and Fulham.
Chief Architect and Planning Officer Federal Capital of Nigeria (Abuja)
Chief Planning Officer LB Islington.

Present Positions: Chair of Planning Brentford Community Council
Partner: The Browne Partnership.