

## [Farming and environmental sectors are partners – Muir](#)

Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Andrew Muir has told stakeholders that working together is key to delivering real environmental improvement whilst ensuring economic resilience in the agriculture sector.

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## [Derry / London Heathrow route secured – Murphy](#)

Economy Minister Conor Murphy has today announced funding to protect the continuation of the flights from the City of Derry Airport (CoDA) to London Heathrow.

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## [Green Party respond to new government brownfield development consultation](#)



### **13 February 2024**

In response to government proposals announced today, where Councils would be required to approve new development on brownfield land even if it fails to meet standards for decent quality homes; be encouraged to repurpose former commercial buildings into flats; and remove restrictions on how big a building can be before a developer has to apply for planning permission [1], Green Party co-leader, Carla Denyer, said:

“Greens believe that tackling the housing crisis while ensuring green spaces are protected requires local councils and government to sign up to a new Right Homes, Right Place, Right Price Charter [2].

“Brown field sites are definitely the right place to prioritise new or repurposed housing. However, they must be the right homes – decent homes built to the highest environmental standards to bring down energy bills. Developments must also provide the kind of housing where people actually want to live – then it will be supported by local communities. We must not allow

developers to ride roughshod over local wishes. Windowless bedsits in converted office blocks that fail to meet decent space standards will not be considered the right homes for the vast majority of people.

“Not once in the Government’s new consultation on developing on brownfield sites is the word ‘affordable’ mentioned. Affordability is fundamentally important. This means a huge increase in new social housing, and ending the Tories ‘Right to Buy’ policy on these homes, which is causing a massive nationwide reduction in council housing [2]. Councils must also be given powers to introduce rent controls in areas where private rents are out of control, alongside a ban on no-fault evictions to stop unscrupulous landlords making tenants homeless just so they can increase rents between tenancies.”

#### Notes:

1. [Strengthening planning policy for brownfield development – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-planning-policy-for-brownfield-development)
2. [Greens call for Right Homes, Right Place, Right Price Charter to beat housing crisis and protect green space | The Green Party](https://www.thegreenparty.org.uk/news/greens-call-for-right-homes-right-place-right-price-charter-to-beat-housing-crisis-and-protect-green-space)
3. <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/almost-60000-homes-sold-through-right-buy-will-not-be-replaced-2030>

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## [Greens call for scaling up actions against Israel, accusing UK government of complicity in killing](#)



### 12 February 2024

As Israel appears to be on the brink of an all out assault on Rafah, despite warnings against such action by the UN, Red Crescent and others, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer is demanding the UK scale up actions against the Israeli government until the killing stops. Greens are calling for an end to all arms sales to Israel, prosecutions of war criminals and targeted sanctions on Israel’s leaders.

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“It is clear that the Israeli government is refusing to heed warnings about the catastrophic implications of an all-out attack on Rafah. The UK government must now demand that Israel stop the killing, calling for an immediate ceasefire. Hamas must also agree to this ceasefire of course, and release all hostages.

“Decisions made by the UK government – above all its failure, month after month, to call for an immediate ceasefire – have made them complicit in the killing of almost 28,000 people to date, 12,000 of whom are children [1].

“Israel relies on certain weapon parts manufactured in the UK, including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter whose essential components are made here [2]. A Dutch court has today ordered the state to cease the export of F-35 spare parts to Israel. We call on the UK government to follow suit, and suspend all arms export licences to Israel until the killing stops. The UK must also cease all military collaboration with Israel, including allowing Israeli use of British bases and RAF intelligence flights over Gaza.

“Greens would also implement the requirements of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign across the UK economy. This would include excluding Israel from international sporting and music events; withdrawing all public money from funds with investments in Israel; and ending beneficial trade arrangements with Israel [3].

“It is clear that only outside pressure will make Israel stop its mass killing. We can increase the pressure on Israeli leaders by introducing targeted sanctions against key individuals. This would include travel bans and asset freezes on Israel’s leadership and cabinet members, in particular those calling for new settlements in Gaza and the annexation of the West Bank.

“Finally, we would encourage UK authorities including the Metropolitan Police and Director of Public Prosecutions to pursue perpetrators of war crimes committed where UK citizens are the victims or where UK citizens are potential perpetrators.

“There are many steps the UK government could take to pressure Israel to stop the killing. Its refusal to do so means that they are implicitly condoning the appalling carnage in Gaza.”

## Notes

1. [Israel-Gaza war in maps and charts: Live tracker | Israel War on Gaza News | Al Jazeera](#)
2. [Who Arms Israel? \(workersinpalestine.org\)](#)
3. This is consistent with the Green Party’s non-violent approach to demonstrating its opposition to breaches of human rights and international law. It is parallel to calls we have made for boycotts of a number of different countries in the past including [Russia](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Myanmar](#), [China](#), and [Qatar](#).

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## **0'Dowd announces £320,000 active travel scheme for Shore Road and Main Street, Toomebridge**

Infrastructure Minister John O'Dowd has announced that work is to commence on a £320,000 shared footway/cycleway scheme on the Shore Road/Main Street, Toomebridge.