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## News Article

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### All party inquiry aims to close infrastructure funding gap

Paul Norman 19/09/2006 14:45

The All Party Parliamentary Urban Development Group (UDG) has called for written submissions on how a looming crisis in funding for UK infrastructure can be averted.

The submissions will be used as evidence at the group's inaugural session in late November 2006.

The session will address the latest findings of Sir Michael Lyons' inquiry into the financing of local government, which emphasise the importance of local infrastructure to the delivery of regeneration and economic growth.

The UDG is seeking evidence from key stakeholders, organisations, and government departments on the types of financial powers that cities and towns need to deliver infrastructure, as well as innovative funding mechanisms to attract private sector finance, while keeping up the current pace of regeneration.

Urban Development Group chair, Clive Betts MP, said: "We know that the cost of infrastructure is a key barrier to regeneration and economic growth in Britain's cities and towns.

"The All-Party Parliamentary Urban Development Group's inquiry will recommend specific changes to the financial tool-kit for our cities and towns."

The UDG is inviting written evidence on:

- what is the infrastructure 'offer' needed to make development happen in Britain's urban areas?

#### Reference(s):

- what existing funding mechanisms public, private, and mixed could be better exploited?
- what new financial tools would enable local authorities to deliver high-quality infrastructure, and lever in private-sector investment, and what should central government devolve?
- are there mechanisms that can boost the private sector's contribution to infrastructure funding, or make its existing contribution more effective?
- would greater devolution help finance essential infrastructure and regeneration?
- is the urban financial tool-kit both public and private currently fit for purpose, and if not, how could it be improved?

The deadline for written submissions is 1 November 2006.

They should be sent, preferably via email to Dr Adam Marshall, Centre for Cities at ippr, 30-32 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7RA  
a.marshall ippr.org

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