

Mr David Trigwell
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Dear Mr Trigwell

Core Strategy Spatial Options Consultation – October 2009

Under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and accompanying Regulations the South West Strategic Leaders' Board (the executive arm of South West Councils), as the Regional Planning Body (RPB), has the role in assessing the general conformity of Local Development Framework (LDF) documents with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). It has also the duty to respond to strategic planning applications and pre-application proposals and to assess if they would impinge on the delivery of the RSS. It also responds to consultation received from local authorities and developers on such issues (within the parameters set out in the Act and Regulations).

The current RSS is RPG10 but you will also be aware that the new RSS is being produced. The Examination in Public (EIP) of the draft RSS (dRSS) closed on 6 July 2007 and the Panel Report was published in January 2008. The evidence base behind the emerging RSS can be considered as a material consideration and will carry greater weight the closer to publication the RSS gets. The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the draft RSS were published on 22 July 2008 and public consultation closed on 24 October 2008.

The draft RSS is the RPB's agreed strategic planning position; however, the Proposed Changes clearly set the planning policy framework for the region. Although the RPB may not agree with some of the modifications made in the Proposed Changes, it is important to note that the Government's Proposed Changes now carry very significant weight as a material consideration, and must be taken into account when assessing LDDs and planning applications.

Comments

The RPB notes and welcomes the recognition given to the strategic context provided by the current and emerging RSS in this document which we find to be in general conformity with the RSS.

We have no substantive additional comments at this stage.

Yours sincerely

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