



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Laura Graham
Inspector
C/O Lissa Higby, Programme Officer:
Council Offices
South Street
Rochford
Essex, SS4 1BW

Also sent via email to:
Programme.Officer@Rochford.gov.uk

29 July 2011

PLEASE QUOTE ON CORRESPONDENCE
Our Ref: AJ/RDCCoreStrategy/27.280711

Dear Ms Graham,

Rochford District Council's Core Strategy

I am writing to you in support of the motion which I understand was passed overwhelmingly a few days ago by Rochford District Council, asking that you should delay your determination of the Council's Core Strategy until December 2011. The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for the Council's resolution, as one of the local MPs whose constituency covers the bulk of the Rochford District.

As we both know, the Regional Spatial Strategies, which were introduced by the previous Government are in the process of being abolished, indeed they would have been so already had it not been for some legal challenges in the High Court. Nevertheless, the matter is due to be put beyond doubt by the Localism Bill, which will formally abolish these strategies by Act of Parliament. The Bill itself has now cleared its stages in the House of Commons and has already received a Second Reading in the House of Lords. As a senior Government Whip, I have some insight into this process and it is my understanding that the Bill is likely to achieve Royal Assent by November of this year or by Christmas at the very latest.

This being the case, it would seem to me completely perverse to make a judgement on the Core Strategy on the basis that the Regional Spatial Strategies still exist, when it is perfectly obvious that they will be abolished in only a few months time. Parliament has already begun to legislate on this issue and that process is nearing completion and I would urge you to take this very practical reality into account when deciding how best to proceed.



I hope you will appreciate the spirit in which this letter is written and given the importance of this issue, I am copying it to the Planning Minister, the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Katrine Sporle, the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, Councillor Terry Cutmore, Leader of Rochford District Council, Councillor Keith Hudson, the portfolio holder for Planning and Transportation and Mr Paul Warren, Chief Executive of that authority.

Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know what you decide to do in due course and I hope that the outcome may yet be a positive one for the constituents that I represent.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Mark Francois

Member of Parliament for Rayleigh and Wickford

CC Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government
Katrine Sporle, Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate
Councillor Terry Cutmore, Leader, Rochford District Council
Councillor Keith Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation, Rochford District Council
Paul Warren, Chief Executive, Rochford District Council

ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

Programme Officer: Lissa Higby
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Ref:

Date: 1 August 2011

Mark Francois MP.,
The House of Commons,
Westminster
London, SW1 1AA.

Dear Mr. Francois,

Possible Suspension of Rochford Core Strategy Examination

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July. The Inspector is considering the Council's request for a suspension of the Examination, and will copy her response to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Lissa Higby
Programme Officer