

Response from Mr. Colin Templeman

Frankly, I would think the way forward is apparent. The Secretary of State's decision to abolish the imposition of a Regional strategy by the previous government had been clearly indicated. In fact, it was even known before the May 2010 speech since it was included in the Conservative party election manifesto, if I recall correctly - certainly it was a pledge if not. Since this decision has now been challenged and upheld in the high court, it's a given that the legislation will follow (if it hasn't already).

Consequently, RDC are no longer obligated to adhere to the central government figures for the planning and provision of housing and are free to determine what levels best meet the future needs of the district. Whilst in practice this should permit greater freedom of self-determination, I would add a caveat that this should naturally be done with due consultation of the electorate and be in sympathy with residents demands and needs.