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20th Feb 2011

PROGRAMME OFFICER
NISSA HIGBY.
ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
SOUTH STREET

ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

DEAR INSPECTOR.

We believe that great weight should be given to the Secretary of State's intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies as the Localism Bill is progressing through Parliament and it is likely to become law before Rochford District Council's Core Strategy is complete. We believe that the proposed legislation if taken into account it gives more certainty to local authorities and developers. The Localism Bill is being hailed as the most radical shift of power since the Town and Country Planning Act, therefore all Core strategies should be put on hold until this bill receives the Royal Assent. The Localism Bill proposes that local authorities and local communities will have the power to decide the level of housing in their area rather than being decided regionally. In Rochford's case the plan period is extended to 2031. Therefore it will be many years before residents can have any say in the future provision of housing.

yours faithfully

Madeleine D A Weir

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