

"Thank you for your comprehensive response to my letter of 14 June regarding the Government's intention to abolish the RSS and the reissuing of PPS3. As you note, the Secretary of State has now revoked the Regional Strategies, including the East of England Plan. Your letter indicates that you have reviewed the housing numbers included in the Core Strategy and conclude that there will be a need to adjust the housing policies in the Core Strategy.

Using the attached template, please set out the changes you now wish to introduce. On the basis of what is said in your letter, I am of the view that such changes could not be regarded as minor, albeit that the main thrust of changes would relate to the timescale of delivery rather than the overall quantum. These changes will therefore need to be subject to consultation and SA. The consultation period would need to be a minimum of six weeks and fulfil any requirements in the SCI.

The Council will also wish to consider whether changes are necessary to remove reference to the RSS in the introductory sections of the document, and in relation to policy areas other than housing, such as employment and renewable energy.

I recognise that the Council has endeavoured to set out the reasoning behind its review of housing numbers in the Core Strategy in its letter, but I consider it would be of considerable benefit to the examination and its participants if these matters could be set out comprehensively in a Topic Paper. The paper should explain what account has been taken of the matters set out in PPS3 paragraph 33 and summarise the chain of reasoning for the revised figures by reference to any relevant documents such as the principal sources of evidence for the EEP, Strategic Housing Market Assessment documents (SHMA), Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment documents (SHLAA) and any other relevant main sources (links to relevant sections of the evidence documents would be welcome). In the case of the SHLAA it would also be helpful to have some assessment of the extent to which land availability findings may or may not be affected by the recent Government changes to PPS3 with regard to density and the development of garden land.

The Paper should also address the issue of compliance with PPG2: In the absence of a requirement to meet targets in a higher level policy, are there any exceptional circumstances (PPG2 paragraph 2.6) to justify altering Green Belt boundaries in relation to housing and employment provision.

Having regard to the nature of other responses to my letter of 14 June, I am of the view that I may need to hold further hearing sessions, to enable respondents to address me on these matters. However, the timescale for preparing and consulting on the changes means that the sessions will need to be delayed beyond September. If any of the proposed changes will have a bearing on affordable housing policies, it may be expedient to prioritise consultation on those changes and negotiate agreement of those making representations on this topic that the session programmed for 7 September should still go ahead, notwithstanding the reduced time available for consultation. If this is not possible, the timing of this session may need to be reviewed.

I would be grateful if you would confirm within the next week that you wish to proceed along these lines and advise me when you will be able to publish a schedule of changes."

Examination into the XXXX DPD

SCHEDULE OF SUGGESTED MINOR / SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Issue 1 – 1 October 2009

The changes below are expressed either in the conventional form of ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and underlining for additions of text, or by specifying the change in words in *italics*.

The page numbers and paragraph numbering below refer to the submission DPD, and do not take account of the deletion or addition of text.

Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Suggested Change
20	3.4	This document will forms part of... [Delete this example]
32	WC17	<i>In the last line:</i> ...the <u>potential</u> rail station... [Delete this example]
44	8.1	<i>Delete the paragraph.</i> [Delete this example]