



Our Ref: MW/km/07217
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Email: mwoolner@firstplan.co.uk
Date: July 16, 2010

Inspector Laura Graham
c/o Programme Officer
Rochford District Council
South Street
Rochford
Essex
SS4 1BW

By email to Programme Officer

Dear Sir,

ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY
INSPECTOR'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER COMMENT ON ABOLITION OF REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGIES (RSS)

On behalf of our clients, Stolkin and Clements (Southend) LLP, who own the Tithe Park site, and whom we represented at the recent Core Strategy Examination hearings, we would like to make the following comments on the abolition of the RSS.

The abolition of the RSS may well have implications for the District's housing target.

Thus far Stolkin and Clements (Southend) LLP have not sought to challenge the housing figures which have come via the RSS. The RSS figures have been founded on a robust evidence base and were closely scrutinised through an Examination in Public of the RSS.

Whilst the RSS has now been revoked, a clear need for additional housing remains. As part of PPS 3, Local Authorities are still required to provide a 5 year housing land supply and the implications of the abolition of the RSS housing figures must be considered in this context.

Our opinion remains that the Core Strategy is unsound because the suggested locations for new residential development have not been properly justified and are not consistent with National Policy. The possible option of providing a sustainable urban extension to Southend in the location of the Tithe Park has not been considered and could be a preferred choice compared with the provision large housing extensions to existing villages and small towns of Rochford.

We trust you will take our comments into account, and please keep us apprised of any further matters which may arise prior to the resolution of the Core Strategy.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE WOOLNER
Director