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Lissa Higby
Programme Officer
Rochford District Council
South Street
Rochford
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Your ref: CS – Planning for Growth

8th April 2011

Dear Ms Higby

Core Strategy Examination – Budget 2011 – Planning for Growth

I wish to make the following comments on the Core Strategy in the context of the Government's Planning for Growth proposals.

Core Strategy Policy H1 does not accord with the presumption in favour of sustainable development or the principles contained in national planning policy and does little to protect existing Green Belt areas. Rather than concentrating development within and around existing larger settlements, the Council is proposing to release Green Belt land adjacent to some of the more isolated settlements in the district where there are no facilities or transport links.

Greg Clark's statement speaks of the need to maintain a flexible and responsive supply of land for key sectors including housing. The Council's approach of releasing larger sites whilst precluding intensification in existing settlements will not achieve this aim. As can already be seen by recent planning applications in Rochford, national housebuilders buy the large sites. The cumbersome large scale nature of developing these sites is not compatible with flexibility and responsiveness. In addition, profits and employment opportunities do not benefit the District. The utilisation of smaller sites as well as larger ones keeps local developers and tradesmen in work which is of benefit to the local economy.

Yours sincerely

David Grew



Representation ID 15913