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The Programme Officer Core Strategy Examination Council Offices South Street Rochford Essex SS4 1BW

12th April 2011

For the attention of the Examining Inspector

Dear Madam

RE: CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION - BUDGET 2011 - PLANNING FOR GROWTH

We thank you for your letter/email communication of 6th April 2011 inviting participants to comment on the Written Ministerial Statement 'Planning for Growth' dated 23rd March 2011.

To assist and help fulfil the Government's new policy of 'Planning for Growth'our view is, that the Rochford Core Strategy is sound in principle in identifying the most appropriate and favourable 'site areas' for future development, to the exclusion of certain opportunistic sites put forward, but it does not define actual sites from the various options presented. This is somewhat counter productive and an impediment for land trusts, housing associations, developers and service providers as there is no clear mandate as to exactly when and what preparations should be proceeded with in regard to required development. The extended timescale for housing quotas has also been set over too long a period, which in the light of the Government's new growth policy, would materialise too late.

Regarding the great deal of commendable work which has been carried out by the Council/Planners over a number of years to arrive at an acceptable and sustainable solution for Rochford District, our longer term view of the recently deferred dateline phasings: 2011-2015, 2015-2021, 2021-2026 and 2026-2031, we feel does not accord with the Government's new policy of "urgent growth needed to help rebuild Britain's economy". For the Rochford District Core Strategy to properly play it's part in this new policy of resurgent growth, we sincerely believe that the above mentioned phasing dates should be brought forward, in particular the post 2026 quotas.

Contd.

As a private Land Trust we have been campaigning for the last twenty years to be permitted to develop an appropriate piece of land, part White Land (ex-brownfield) and part greenbelt, intergrated into an existing residential settlement and currently designated as part of Option SWH4. Over this time, we have regarded the Council's planning policies for such development, too restrictive. In conjunction with a premier housing association, we are ready to discuss implementation of the development of this particular site as soon as the Council/Planners wish to move matters forward.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment and trust our viewpoint and comments will be duly considered in the light of the Government's new policy.

Yours faithfully

SPENCER WELSH Managing Trustee