

REP REF: 2900
Mr. C. Gillham

Dear Ian

Thank you for your letter of 7th June, drawing attention to the changing background to the South Wilts Core Strategy.

I am afraid that I am just off on holiday and cannot respond right now, but hope to write something after I return on the 19th.

As a holding observation I would say that the issue of the RSS was fundamental. Regardless of the fact that WC was making its own estimates of housing needs (though these were before the realities of the Recession) that, as you say, *'correspond broadly with those in the emerging RSS'*, the background of public involvement in the issue seems to be very important. So far as I know such public consultation as there has been, has been predicated on the assumption that the local authority must accept central and regional government targets as a given. So far as I know the public has never been asked what its views might be in the absence of such a given.

Best regards
Chris Gillham
Winchester