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Our Ref: PA/TP.82946

*Please quote our reference in replying*

16 June 2010

I. Kemp Esq.  
Programme Officer  
South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination  
C/O 36 Campbell Street  
Rugby  
Warwickshire, CV21 2HY

Dear Mr. Kemp

**SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY; INTENTION TO ABOLISH RSS**

Thank you for your letter of the 7 June and for your invitation to set out comments regarding the soundness of the Core Strategy in the light of the intention of the Secretary of State (S of S) to abolish the RSS.

First, could I make the comment that the recently published PINS advice note states that until an RSS is actually abolished it remains a part of the statutory development plan for the purposes of Section 38(6) of the act. In the south west that is not the case as the RSS has not yet been adopted. It does not have the full weight of a development plan document.

Second, the S of S 'Dear Chief Planner' letter, setting out the intention to remove regional house building numbers, only deals with the numbers themselves. There is no guidance on related issues; for example, the distribution of dwellings between settlements. The central government guidance only appears to deal with the quantum of development per se.

It is clear from the South Wiltshire Core Strategy that Wiltshire Council was not seeking to vary the quantum of development from that set out in the Proposed Modifications to the RSS to a material degree. Had there been a departure from the RSS, then it is assumed that the Government Office for the South West would have objected. It did not. Additionally, the Core Strategy is, for the most part, based on locally generated need. For that reason, it must be regarded as sound in most respects, even if the RSS is abolished.

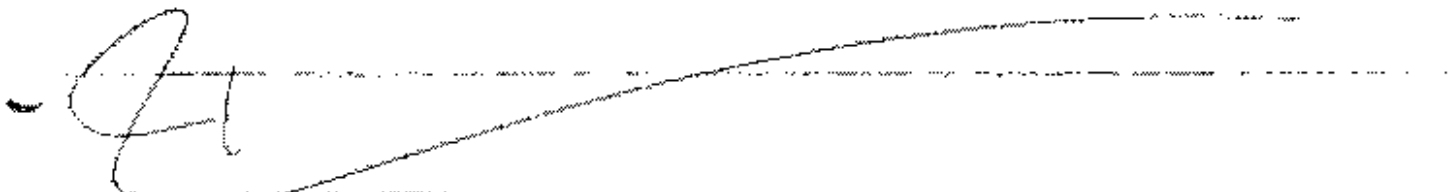
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However, that is not to say that each and every part of the Core Strategy is sound. I believe that the Inspector can still exercise planning judgement where validly made objections can, upon the use of that judgement, be upheld. Here, I use the example of the case made on behalf of the objectors whom I represent; i.e. that the distribution of development between settlements is a matter that may not be sound, even if the overall quantum of development for South Wiltshire meets the locally generated need.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



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CC. D. Fretwell Esq.

*Note to David - this has arisen due to post election matters. Please feel free to give me a call to discuss.*

*Peter*