

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

INSPECTOR

Robert Yuille MSc Dip TP MRTPI

PROGRAMME OFFICER

Ian Kemp BSc (Hons)

**36 Campbell Street
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 2HY**

Telephone: 01788 562864

Mobile: 07723 009166

Email: idkemp@sky.com

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Dear Sir / Madam,

South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination

Housing provision in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy (the CS) is based on growth figures contained in the Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West Incorporating the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes – for Public Consultation, July 2008 (the emerging RSS). The question of the weight to be given to the emerging RSS was considered at the hearing sessions of the Examination into the soundness of the CS where there was general agreement that it was right for the housing figures in the CS to be based on the emerging RSS. There were three main reasons for this; firstly, national and regional advice supported this approach; secondly, the Council's own locally derived estimates of the need for housing correspond broadly with those in the emerging RSS; and, thirdly, the CS is sufficiently flexible to cope with any differences between these two sets of figures.

However, the Government has now confirmed its commitment to rapidly abolishing Regional Strategies such as the emerging RSS and returning decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Consequently decisions on housing supply in the CS rest with Wiltshire Council without the framework of regional numbers and plans.

While the Government has yet to give details of how and when the emerging RSS will be abolished, the intention to abolish it is a material consideration that the Inspector conducting the Examination into the soundness of the CS needs to take into account.

The Inspector is, therefore, seeking your comments on the effect, if any, that the intention to abolish the emerging RSS has on the soundness of the CS. Comments are not compulsory but if you would like to provide the Inspector with your views any comments you may have should be sent to the above address by 21st June 2010.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Ian Kemp
Programme Officer
South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination