



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

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30 March 2009

Dear Mr Brown

I am writing with reference to your notification of 18th March 2009 applying for a direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in respect of policies in the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 adopted 1st April 2006.

The Secretary of State's Direction for this Plan is attached. Those policies not listed in the Direction will expire on 31st March 2009.

The extension of saved policies listed in this Direction does not indicate that the Secretary of State would endorse these policies if presented to her as new policy. It is merely to maintain an extension of existing adopted policy intended in the sole interests of maintaining continuity in the development plans system and a stable planning framework locally, and in particular, a continual supply of land for development.

Local planning authorities should not suppose that a regulatory development plan style approach will be supported in forthcoming Development Plan Documents. LPAs should adopt a positive non regulatory approach to DPD preparation and not seek to reintroduce the numerous policies of many local plans.

LPAs should make good progress with local development frameworks according to timetables in local development schemes. The exercise of extending saved policies is not an opportunity to delay DPD preparation.

Policies have been extended in the expectation that they will be replaced promptly and by fewer policies in DPDs. Maximum use should be made of national and regional policy especially given the advanced position of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Secretary of State's decisions concern some policies where there have been representations from a third party expressing views that differ from those of your authority to consider or where her views differ from those of your authority. Where these circumstances apply the Secretary of State's reasons are set out in the table below

In accordance with this, please see the reasons set out in the Table below.

Policy Ref	Reason	Extended	Not Extended
DP10C	The policy duplicates local policy contained in Swindon Local Plan		X
C7	Conflicts with national policy in PPS7		X
W3	Conflicts with national policy in PPS10		X

Following 31st March 2009 the extended policies should be read in context. Where policies were originally adopted some time ago, it is likely that material considerations, in particular the emergence of new national and regional policy and also new evidence, will be afforded considerable weight in decisions.

I would be grateful if you would please forward copies of this letter and the accompanying Direction and Schedule as soon as possible to the relevant Structure Plan Authorities.

Yours sincerely



Thoss Shearer
Deputy Regional Director
Regional Strategies, Housing and Planning