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Mark Jaggard / Adrian Roche
Oxford City Council
Ramsay House
10 St. Ebbe's Street
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: PINS/G3110/429/5

Date: 14th October 2009

Dear Mark and Adrian,

I indicated at the last hearing session for the Oxford Core Strategy, on the 11th September, that my intention was to deliver my Report on the Core Strategy to the City Council, for a fact check, by 30 October.

As you are aware, the South East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has been subject to legal challenge on the basis that the Sustainability Appraisal has failed to take into account reasonable alternatives to the green belt reviews for the South of Oxford and North East of Guildford. Since the hearing sessions ended, the Secretary of State's decision to submit to the claims has been placed in the public domain and the outcome of a consent order in relation to these challenges is awaited.

The core strategy has been drawn up in the light of the RSS's approach to Oxford, particularly the dependency of the core strategy on the identification of the South Oxford Strategic Development Area. I have therefore decided to suspend the Oxford examination until the legal challenges are concluded.

Once the outcome is clear, I will be inviting written statements on the matter to inform a hearing session to consider the way forward.

Yours sincerely,

David Fenton

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