

OXFORD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

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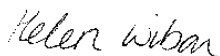
Dear Sir/Madam

Following the completion of the resumed hearing session in September 2010, the inspectors are currently finalising the report on the soundness of the Oxford Core Strategy.

As you will be aware, one of the issues subject to discussion at the resumed hearings was the implications of the Secretary of State's decision on 6 July 2010 to revoke the Regional Strategies (including the South-East Plan RSS) and to return decision making on planning and housing to local councils. That decision was subject to legal challenge (Cala Homes case: 2010 EWHC 2866), which was decided on 10 November 2010. The outcome was to quash the decision, and the Secretary of State has decided not to appeal this judgement. The effect of this judgement is to quash the decision to revoke the Regional Strategies, and as a consequence the South-East Plan RSS as it stood on 5 July 2010 forms an ongoing part of the development plan. However, the Government's intention to abolish regional strategies (as announced on 27 May 2010) will be given statutory effect in due course as part of the Localism Bill, and this intention is a material consideration in planning decisions.

The purpose of this letter is to invite the Council and all representors for their views on the latest situation in terms of the status of the regional strategy and the policy implications for the Core Strategy. The inspector invites the written views of the Council and representors on this matter, which should be submitted to me by Friday 3 December 2010 at the latest. Please note that I am currently working in Oxford and if you wish to submit your representations by post, they should be sent to me at the above address.

Yours faithfully



Helen Wilson
Programme Officer