

Paul Stimpson
Head of Planning Policy and Projects
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall, Bath Road
Slough SL1 3UQ

21 December 2007

Dear Mr Stimpson,

Slough Core Strategy – Submission Development Plan Document

I write in relation to the above consultation document which was received by the Assembly on 13 November 2007. The Assembly welcomes the opportunity to comment on this important document which will help facilitate the delivery of important parts of the draft South East Plan, including the economic development and housing elements as they relate to Slough Borough Council.

In accordance with Section 24 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Assembly is of the opinion that the Slough Core Strategy – Submission Development Plan Document is in general conformity with the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9 and Alterations) and also the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (the draft South East Plan as submitted to the Secretary of State on 31 March 2006).

The Assembly also makes a number of additional comments on the document which are outlined in the attached schedule. Please note that these additional comments are intended to improve the document but they do not relate to the issue of general conformity and should not be seen as conflicting with the opinion of general conformity given above.

I trust that the above is of assistance. Please contact Kevin Hazell, Regional Planner, on 01483 555200 or kevinhazell@southeast-ra.gov.uk if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bevan
Chief Executive
Cc GOSE

SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Schedule of comments on the Slough Core Strategy Submission Development Plan Document

17 December 2007

1. Core Policy 4 – Type of Housing (Density)

Table I sets out indicative density ranges for Slough and this level of guidance is welcome and supported by Policy H5 of the draft South East Plan which encourages higher housing densities and sets an overall regional target of 40 dwellings per hectare. We do however consider that Table I, setting out the indicative density ranges, needs to be explicitly referred to in Core Policy 1 (Type of Housing) and therefore given a clear policy status.

2. Core Policy 4 – Type of Housing (Affordable Housing)

The affordable housing policy requires that between 30% - 50% of dwellings on qualifying sites be social rented along with other forms of housing. Policy H4 of the draft South East Plan sets a regional target of 25% of new housing being social rented and 10% other forms of affordable housing. It is considered that the policy would be enhanced if it specifically included an additional, separate target for the element of affordable housing that is not social rented. This would serve to clarify the intent of the policy and how it will apply to specific development proposals and bring it more closely into line with the draft South East Plan.

3. Core Policy 4 – Type of Housing (Gypsy & Traveller Sites)

It is noted that the Core Strategy seeks to 'not generally permit' Gypsy and Traveller provision being made in the urban area. Given the still emerging nature of the South East Plan partial review relating to Gypsy's and Traveller's, it is considered that the Core Strategy would be a more flexible document if it did not rule out provision in any specific circumstance or geographic area. This will allow the Core Strategy, and any subsequent Development Plan Documents, to respond appropriately to the emerging outcomes of the partial review.

4. Core Policy 10 – Infrastructure

We note the reference to 'infrastructure' in Core Policy 10 and the type of infrastructure seen to be encompassed within the policy. We would request that this section of the Core Strategy include the definition of infrastructure as set out in the draft South East Plan Implementation Plan to ensure that across the region a consistent definition is applied.