

Gary Lugg  
Head of Planning  
West Berkshire Council  
Market Street  
Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5LD

02 November 2006

Dear Mr Lugg,

**WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK –  
PLANNING STRATEGY SUBMISSION DRAFT**

Under the provisions of Section 24 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act) the Assembly has assessed the general conformity of the West Berkshire Planning Strategy submission document against the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9 and Alterations) and also the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (the Draft South East Plan as submitted to Government on 31 March 2006).

Members of the Regional Planning Committee consider the Planning Strategy to be in general conformity with both the adopted and emerging RSS. However, a number of specific aspects of the Planning Strategy have been identified which do not appear to have had full regard to adopted or emerging RSS. The Assembly therefore submits the enclosed detailed representations on these matters. These representations are submitted on the basis of PPS12 (2004) 'Test of Soundness' Test iv. A summary schedule of the representations submitted is also enclosed.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of our representations, please contact Sue Janota on 01483 555200 or [suejanota@southeast-ra.gov.uk](mailto:suejanota@southeast-ra.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Bevan**  
**Chief Executive**

C.c. David Paine – Government Office for the South East

## **South East England Regional Assembly - Representations**

### **Representation 1**

#### **General Transport**

The Planning Strategy is threaded with policy references designed to rebalance the transport system in favour of non car modes. However, the deliverability and implementation of the RSS transport objectives would be strengthened with the inclusion of a specific and separate transport policy.

### **Representation 2**

#### **Regional Transport Spokes**

In accordance with Policy T5 of RPG9 (as amended) and Policy T3 of the Draft South East Plan Reference should be made, and policy support given, for the regional transport spoke and the international and inter-regional corridor that pass through the Borough, especially in regard to the level of inter sub-regional and regional connectivity for the major settlements. This should be considered for all modes of travel.

### **Representation 3**

#### **Strategic Gaps**

Policy CCI0b of the draft South East Plan sets out criteria for identifying strategic gaps in a Local Development Document. It is unclear how a strategic gap or strategic wedge identified under Spatial Policy 8, or the gaps identified within Spatial Policy 9 of the West Berkshire Planning Strategy meet the criteria set out within Policy CCI0b of the Draft South East Plan. Spatial Policies 8 and 9 of the Planning Strategy would be strengthened with a reference to the Draft South East Plan Policy CCI0b criteria.

### **Representation 4**

#### **Infrastructure**

Development Management Policy 1 – Principal 6: Provide services, infrastructure and amenities would be strengthened with reference to and alignment with the infrastructure definition as set out within paragraph 3.5.1, Figure 2 of the Draft South East Plan Implementation Plan, as agreed at the Regional Planning Committee on 27 November 2006.