



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

Peter Brown  
Director, Planning and Partnership  
South West Regional Assembly  
Dennett House  
11 Middle Street  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 1SH

Thoss Shearer  
Deputy Regional Director  
Regional Strategies, Housing and  
Planning  
Planning & Housing Delivery  
2 Rivergate  
Temple Quay  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6EH

Our reference: SW/THM/4859/ 17  
Your reference:

Website: [www.gosw.gov.uk](http://www.gosw.gov.uk)  
Direct Dial: 0117 900 1876  
Fax: 0117 900 1906  
E-mail: [neal.whitehead@gosw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:neal.whitehead@gosw.gsi.gov.uk)

September 2007

Dear Mr Brown

I am writing with reference to your application of 30 March 2007 applying for a direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in respect of policies in

- A) Gloucestershire Structure Plan Second Review 2011.
- B) Somerset & Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Alteration 1991 – 2011.
- C) Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan 2011 (Formally Dorset County Structure Plan).
- D) Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Joint Replacement Structure Plan 2011.
- E) Cornwall Structure Plan 2016.
- F) Devon Structure Plan 2001-2016 (includes Dartmoor National Park but excludes Exmoor National Park).

Your application also included details of the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 adopted 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. You, and the strategic

authorities concerned, have subsequently clarified that this is the only Structure Plan in force relating to Wiltshire and Swindon. As this plan will not expire until 1 April 2009 it has not therefore been included in this Direction.

The Secretary of State's Direction for each Plan is attached. Those policies not listed in the Direction will expire on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007. In the case of the Devon Structure Plan 2001-2016, adopted 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004 (includes Dartmoor National Park but excludes Exmoor National Park) those policies not listed in the Direction will expire on 8 October 2007.

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 local 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 many regional spatial strategies and the post 2004 status of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Following 27 September 2007 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. LPAs' attention is drawn to Planning Policy Statement 3 *Housing* (paragraphs 6 and 68) and the Housing Green Paper - [\*Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable\*](#) (chapter 2, paragraph 15).

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