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**From:** Grange Town Council [mailto:council@grangeoversands.net]

**Sent:** 07- Jul- 10 11:33

**To:** Programme Officer

**Cc:** council@grangeoversands.net

**Subject:** Response to Inspector regarding government announcements in relation to RSS & national planning policy

Dear Jenna

I am emailing in response to your letter dated 22 June regarding SLDCs response to government changes to Regional Spatial Strategies and national planning policy on housing.

I attach Grange Town Council's response to these changes. As outlined in the letter, this response will be considered for ratification at the next town council meeting on 12 July. I will confirm the response after this date.

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this email.

Best wishes

Alix Jagger

Deputy Town Clerk

Grange Town Council

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# TOWN COUNCIL OF GRANGE-OVER-SANDS

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Council Offices  
Main Street  
Grange-over-Sands  
Cumbria, LA11 6DP

Tel/Fax: (015395) 32375

Website: [www.grangeoversands.net](http://www.grangeoversands.net)  
e.mail: [council@grangeoversands.net](mailto:council@grangeoversands.net)

V.A.T. Reg.No: 155 9214 57

7 July 2010

Jenna Rayner  
Programme Officer  
South Lakeland House  
Lowther Street  
Kendal  
Cumbria LA9 4DL

Dear Ms Rayner

I am writing in response to your letter dated 22 June regarding government announcements in relation to Regional Spatial Strategies and national planning policy on housing.

This response has been drafted following a working party of councillors in order to meet the response deadline, and will be considered for ratification at the next Town Council meeting on 12 July. I will confirm the Town Council's response after the Town Council meeting.

Grange Town Council is disappointed to note that SLDC does not intend to materially amend its Core Strategy in the light of the government's stated intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies. Grange Town Council considers that SLDC should await confirmation and further guidance from central government regarding how to proceed before confirming its position. Once the changes to central government policy and guidance are confirmed, SLDC should undertake proper consultation with local people on the changes and this consultation should inform the Core Strategy.

SLDC states its continued support for housing targets as set out in the RSS, arguing that these align in large part with the 2006 South Lakeland Housing Needs and Market Assessment. A significant downturn in the economy has occurred since this assessment was undertaken, and the view of Grange Town Council is that these material changes require a new assessment. The government's notice of its intention to abolish the RSS provides an opportunity for SLDC to reconsider its Core Strategy and ensure that it will provide the level and type of housing required in the towns and villages of South Lakeland, whilst maintaining the character of its towns and villages.

Grange Town Council maintains that the housing need in the town is for affordable and local housing. A major concern is that the planned level of development in Grange will adversely affect the character of Grange whilst not producing any significant level of affordable housing in the town, given that many potential sites are small and will therefore not meet the threshold requiring provision of affordable housing.

Yours sincerely

Alix Jagger  
Deputy Town Clerk