

From: on behalf of Programme Officer
Subject: FW: Recent Government Announcements

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From: Samantha.Turner@4nw.org.uk
Sent: 25- Jun- 10 14:46
To: Programme Officer

Subject: Recent Government Announcements

Jenna

Thankyou for you letter of 22 June, asking for our views on recent Government announcements. The following represent officer level comments.

We would agree with the summary provided by the Council in your letter and generally support the proposed changes, particularly the incorporation of text from RSS policy DP4 into CS1.1 However, please note more detailed comments below:

Proposed Changes to Policy CS8.7

As agreed in our statement of common ground, this policy was intended to refer to RSS policy EM18, rather than EM17 - see SOCG27. We would suggest that text setting out EM18 targets be incorporated into Policy CS8.7, or alternatively a clear commitment to developing local targets included, rather than having no targets at all. Please note that LCF8.1 in the draft PPS 1 - Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate which recognises a continued role for authority wide targets whilst moving towards other approaches based on local evidence base and the implementation of building regs (para copied below).

"LCF8.1 The progressively demanding standards for CO2 emissions set through Building Regulations, together with the assessment of local opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy, will help drive greater use of decentralised energy. Targets for application across a whole local authority area which are designed to secure a minimum level of decentralised energy use in new development will be unnecessary when the proposed 2013 revisions to Part L of the Building Regulations (for both domestic and non-domestic buildings) are implemented. As an interim measure until the coming into force of the 2013 revisions, the Secretary of State will support the application of authority-wide targets where these are included in the development plan. At the local level, any target should be in a DPD and have met the tests in LCF11."

Gypsies and Travellers - RSS Partial Review

In relation to the RSS Partial Review, our view is as follows:

The Panel Report is yet to be published although it is our understanding that it has been completed. Our conversations with colleagues at the Planning Inspectorate in recent weeks suggests that they are awaiting a decision from the relevant minister at Communities and Local Government with regard to the release of the report and its status given the current changes proposed to the planning system. A pertinent matter is the letter from Eric Pickles to all local planning authorities on 27 May 2010 which stated,

"...decisions on housing supply (including the provision of travellers sites) will rest with Local Planning Authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans.

I will make a formal announcement on this matter soon, However, I expect Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to have regard to this letter as a material planning consideration in any decisions they are currently taking."

It is therefore clear that there will be no further work undertaken on the policies on Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople outlined in the Partial Review. However, it should be noted that the evidence base assembled for the Partial Review, including the sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Assessments, material and evidence presented at the Examination in Public, and the Panel Report once published, will provide a body of work to inform future decisions on policies within Local Development Frameworks.

I hope this is of assistance. If there is anything you wish to discuss further please contact Duncan McCorquodale, tel.01942 776729

Regards
Sam

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