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Further to your letter of 22nd June 2010 concerning the proposal by the new government to abolish the RSS we have always been opposed to the RSS and its intention to split the county up into smaller regions and direct specific targets at each of these separate regions. Previously we had been working together as part of the Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan.

We feel in South Lakeland the target for the numbers of houses to be built (particularly in the current economic climate) is not sustainable and the proposal to lower the requirement for development on previously developed land from 50% to "at least 28%" (which we do not agree with and have made our comments previously) highlights the problem of finding suitable sites that could be developed while protecting the areas assets from inappropriate development.

By working together on a joint structure plan we would have a more coordinated way to address these problems. Should we now consult with other councils to see how they will proceed when the RSS is abolished.

Also we would refer to our representation in October 2009. We have been concerned with the definition of "infilling" and "small scale" on page 23 of the core strategy. We feel the definition in the core strategy is not sound.

The RSS definition for "infilling" was the filling of a small gap, in an otherwise built up frontage e.g. a gap which could be filled by one or two houses.

To us this definition is sound and consistent with the proposal for small scale development in rural villages outside the service centres where there will be no development boundaries.

Do you still intend to publish the allocations of land document? To us it does not make sense to allocate specific pieces of land, which have yet to be tested against the core strategy principles. The allocation makes them potentially more valuable pieces of land on the assumption that they will be granted planning permission.

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