



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

To

EiP Participants  
Respondents to the draft RSS  
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South West Region MEPs  
House of Lords Librarian  
House of Commons Librarian  
Local Authority Chief Executives  
Local Authority Senior Planning Officers  
District Library Librarian  
County Library Librarian

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**Please Note: This is a standard letter to all recipients**

If you are "The Librarian" please ensure that this document is made available for Public Inspection.

If you are "The Senior Planning Officer" please ensure that the spare copy is made available for public Inspection

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed a copy of the **Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West**, together with supporting documents.

Your views on these changes and the accompanying Strategic Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment are now sought.

This is an important step in the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy, within which there are three main stages. These stages are as follows:

- The South West Regional Assembly prepared a draft RSS and submitted this draft to Government in April 2006. A period of public consultation then drew over 2,000 responses. A copy of this draft can be found on the Assembly's website at [www.southwest-ra.gov.uk](http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk);
- An Independent Panel of Planning Inspectors examined the draft South West RSS and the representations made during the consultation stage at an Examination in Public (April to July 2007), testing it for soundness. The report of their recommended changes can be viewed on the GOSW website at [www.gosw.gov.uk](http://www.gosw.gov.uk);
- Following publication of the Panel's report in January 2008 the Government is now in the process of finalising the RSS. Legislation requires that after the Examination in Public the Government must publish and consult on any '*proposed changes*' it intends to make to the draft RSS revision. The enclosed documents encompass this stage of the process.

As part of Proposed Changes the Government must publish a 'statement of reasons', showing why changes have been made to the draft. Regulations and guidance also leave scope for discretion about the best way to present proposed changes and the statement of reasons, depending on the complexity and types of changes and reasons.

In the case of the South West the following format has been used:

*For consultation*

- **A Schedule of Changes.** This document sets out tables of the changes proposed to be made, together with the Secretary of State's reasons for making the changes. In the case of changes to policy, these are included in the schedule in full. In the case of changes to supporting text, these are summarised in the schedule. The introduction to the Proposed Changes document explains the format of these tables.
- **A Companion Document** showing how the RSS would be with all of the Proposed Changes incorporated. All changes are shown by either strikethrough (text that is to be deleted or replaced) or highlighting (text that is either different or additional to the draft RSS).
- Separate draft **Strategic Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment** The reports. These reports, prepared by Land Use Consultants in association with Collingwood Environmental Planning and Levett-Therivel consultants are part on an ongoing technical process designed to inform the preparation of the plan.

It is these documents that are being made available for public consultation and your views are sought.

The consultation period on the Proposed Changes and Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports ends at 5 pm on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. Government will then assess these responses and prepare the final version.

*How to Respond*

Consultees are asked to express their views on the Proposed Changes and Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment by using the online consultation portal, which includes an online response form. This is to be found, together with the enclosed documents on the Government Office website at:

[www.gosw.gov.uk/gosw/planning/regionalplanning](http://www.gosw.gov.uk/gosw/planning/regionalplanning)

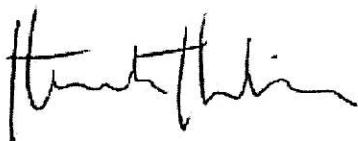
Alternatively, a paper response form is available. This is enclosed and can also be downloaded from the GOSW website or requested from the Government Office Regional Spatial Strategy Team (0117 900 1705, email [rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk)). The response forms also enable views to be expressed on the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Changes.

Forms can be sent: by email to [rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk)

by fax to 0117 900 1914

by post to: Regional Planning Team, Government Office for the South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6ED

Yours faithfully



**Hannah Hickman**