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Mr T Freathy
Acting Deputy Regional Director for Development and Infrastructure.
Government Office for the East of England
Eastbrook
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Our ref:
Your ref:
2nd April 2008

Planning Services
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Dear Mr Freathy

South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City Council District Boundary Review RSS Housing Targets

The purpose of this letter is to seek a determination on the implications for District housing targets set in policy H1 of the East of England Plan of an alteration to the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City District boundary.

As you know the East of England Plan sets housing targets for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City of 23,500 and 19,000 respectively for the period 2001 to 2021. The East of England Plan also proposes that development should be focussed on the edge of Cambridge and at the new town of Northstowe. South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council are in the final throws of putting in place the Development Plan Documents and Local Plans which allocate land for development in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

On the edge of Cambridge there are allocations at Trumpington, Cambridge Airport and north west Cambridge where development will cross the District boundary. As the two Councils move from a partnership approach to plan-making to delivering the development, they are reaching a consensus position where they are likely to agree to approach the Boundary Commission to change the Districts boundaries to put the whole of the development area within Cambridge City. This would have a number of benefits for future residents not least that they would be provided within their local authority services by the same Council and to the same standard of provision.

Before taking these discussions any further, South Cambridgeshire needs to fully comprehend the implications of any change. The Council is particularly concerned that any boundary change would be accompanied by a formal revision to its Regional Housing Targets. For example, if the effect of the boundary change would be to transfer allocations for 5,000 dwellings into the new administrative area of Cambridge City Council, the Council would want

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the reassurance before agreeing to the boundary change that its RSS housing target would be reduced by 5,000 dwellings.

Discussions with Cambridge City Council are well advanced and the two Councils are close to the stage where a formal request to the Boundary Commission could be made. A firm Government determination on this matter is one of the few outstanding matters remaining to be resolved and an early response would very much be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Harlock
Chief Executive