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Dear Greg/Rob

## **BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Following our recent meeting, I am writing as agreed to outline the Government's position with regard to the issues you raised about meeting additional housing requirements, should the Boundary Commission accept any proposed changes to boundaries between the current administrative areas (particularly as a result of city fringe development sites being taken wholly into the City Council's area).

I can see the case, from a governance and community perspective, for ensuring that any new communities resulting from the growth of Cambridge are not split between two different authorities. However, I must be clear that this view is completely without prejudice to the consideration and outcome of any prospective boundary review, which is properly a matter for the Boundary Commission.

As I said at the meeting, I understand the concerns expressed by some of your Members that the requirement to deliver additional housing numbers set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy should take account of any boundary changes; and particularly that account should be taken of the housing commitment and allocation numbers upon which the housing requirement is founded in areas formerly within South Cambridgeshire district, so that the authority is not expected, in effect, to deliver twice an element of its strategic housing requirement in the current RSS.

As we have said in previous correspondence on this matter, the fact is that an RSS review is the only mechanism available to change existing housing targets, even where there are boundary changes such as you propose. We would, however, expect and ensure that the forthcoming (or any subsequent) RSS review took account of any boundary changes that had occurred in considering future housing requirements.

In addition to this, we accept that a pragmatic and common sense approach should be taken in the meantime towards implementation of the existing RSS housing requirements. This means that the Government Office and the Planning

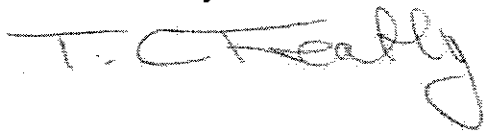
Inspectorate would recognise the particular circumstances that exist where land has transferred from one authority to another and would ensure that all housing originally allocated within the South Cambridgeshire District will be recognised and credited to South Cambridgeshire housing targets where a boundary change results in housing (whether completed or targeted in allocations) being 'moved' into Cambridge. Therefore South Cambridgeshire would not be prejudiced in any way by a boundary change by 'replacement' houses being sought within the District.

In practice, we would recognise these circumstances where they had to be reported for monitoring purposes (for example in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report) and would ensure that an Inspector involved in any review of the Council's Local Development Framework was aware of the specific local circumstances and how they were being treated. In saying this, I recognise that these circumstances apply to a relatively small number of strategic and well-delineated urban fringe sites that are already allocated in the authorities' statutory plans, namely: the areas covered by the Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP, Cambridge East AAP and North West Cambridge AAP and so it should be relatively straightforward to account for housing completions and allocations on these sites in relation to boundary changes, should the need occur.

I should qualify what I have said, however, by noting also that this position is without prejudice to the current or future RSS reviews which will consider comprehensively the on-going need for additional houses in the region as a whole and at district level.

I hope that what I have set out in this letter will reassure your Members that we are committed to the delivery of sustainable communities in and around Cambridge and that we are prepared to be pragmatic in addressing the specific issues and concerns that have been raised. I would be happy to discuss anything further to do with this with you or any of your Members if that would help.

Yours sincerely



**TIM FREATHY**  
**Deputy Regional Director**

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Robert Cayzer - CLG  
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