



SOUTH WEST
Regional Assembly

Bryony Houlden
Chief Executive

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Dear Consultee

**CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR
THE SOUTH WEST 2006-2026**

This Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West has been produced by the South West Regional Assembly - a partnership of Councillors from all local authorities in the region and representatives of various sectors with a role in the region's economic, social and environmental well-being. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and as such has worked with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to prepare the Draft RSS.

The South West Regional Assembly submitted the Draft RSS for the South West 2006-2026 to Government on 24th April 2006. Consultation on behalf of the independent Panel of Inspectors will run for 12 weeks from **6th June 2006 to 30th August 2006, closing at 5pm.**

A consultation response form has been prepared by the Panel of Inspectors and should be used for responses. This can be downloaded from the website at www.southwesteip.co.uk or hard copies made available from the Panel Secretariat on request. Please use this form to make your response, and send it (electronically if possible) to the Panel Secretariat. Responses made in different formats will cause handling and analysis difficulties.

Responses should be sent to the Panel Secretariat (not the Regional Assembly) by **5pm on 30th August 2006**, at:

Email: representations@southwesteip.co.uk

Post: The Panel Secretary
South West RSS Examination in Public
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EH
Website: www.southwesteip.co.uk
Tel.No: 0117 900 1814

Early responses to the consultation will be appreciated. Please note that all responses will be publicly available and cannot be treated as confidential. Please submit your response only once, not multiple versions (e.g. electronically and hard copy), you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

This Draft RSS has been prepared subject to a mandatory Sustainability Appraisal (SA) under Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) required by European Directive 2001/42/EC. If you are proposing alternative strategies or proposals to those contained in the Draft RSS you should consider, possibly taking your own legal advice, if these are likely to have a significant effects in terms of the Act and Directives. Neither the Panel Secretariat; the Government Office for the South West; the Department for Communities and Local Government; or the South West Regional Assembly as the Regional Planning Body can advise you on this issue. If your proposals are likely to have significant effects you are recommended to provide, along with your comments, supporting sustainability information and appraisal work to help the Panel consider your proposals. You may like to refer to paragraphs 2.5.2-2.5.5 of "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" (ODPM, 2005).

For enquiries about the Examination in Public please contact the Panel Secretariat at the above address, or via email: enquiries@southwesteip.co.uk

Further information on the Draft RSS is available on the Regional Assembly's website at www.southwest-ra.gov.uk. For enquiries about the consultation, or to request further copies of the document, please contact the Assembly at the address on the letterhead or via email: rss@southwest-ra.gov.uk.

Copies of the Draft RSS and accompanying documents are available for public inspection at all libraries and main Council offices in the region, and at the Regional Assembly's offices. A full list is available on our website.

To assist stakeholders in formulating views on the Draft RSS a number of briefing sessions are being held around the region in early July. The extent of the consultation carried out has been a hallmark of the RSS process in the South West and these events are intended to continue this positive approach. The events will provide a briefing on the Draft RSS and what it is saying about the key issues facing the region. It is intended to aid understanding before consultation comments are made to the independent Panel. The events are not part of the formal consultation and comments made will not be recorded. For further information about the events, please go to our website at www.southwest-ra.gov.uk or contact Vivien James via email vivien.james@southwest-ra.gov.uk or telephone 01823 425204.

Yours sincerely



Bryony Houlden
Chief Executive

Errata

The submitted Draft RSS included an error which has been noted since publication.

Chapter 8, page 178 - Policy E2: Identification of Employment Sites
3rd sentence should read: *'Outside of SSCTs, LDDs should give preference (having regard to the sequential test) firstly to land within ~~the SSCTs~~ those places identified through the application of Development Policy B and then outside these places to previously developed land which is well integrated with the existing settlement pattern.'*