



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

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Dear David

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

Further to our meeting on 3 September 2009 to discuss the above, we recognise the significant progress that has been made by the Joint Planning Unit and Joint Strategic Planning Committee in publishing the Emergent Joint Core Strategy and the ongoing efforts that are being made to progress to a pre-submission draft. However, as we discussed at our recent meeting, we recognise that there are complex infrastructural issues that need to be better understood and reasonably resolved before pre-submission. We understand that the complexity, sensitivity and financial impact of these issues has led to key agencies and partner authorities needing more time to conclude essential evidence base studies, consider the results, assess delivery, and to agree a common way forward. These studies include the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Water Cycle Study and Highways Modelling, It is imperative that a sound evidence base is in place to support the pre submission document and the scale of growth that can be accommodated.

We consider that in these special circumstances, the partner authorities should reconsider the timetable for the Joint Core Strategy and other DPDs. We invite you to submit an amended Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire to us once you have mapped out the critical paths for the outstanding evidence base studies and have a common understanding with the key agencies of a way forward. We are happy to comment on a draft once you have considered what adjustments you need to make.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Forgham  
Head of Planning



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