



Karen Syrett
Spatial Policy Manager
Colchester Borough Council
FREEPOST NAT4433
PO Box 885
Town Hall
Colchester
Essex CO1 1ZE

Paul Hersey
Development & Infrastructure
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DF

Tel: 01223 372930
GTN: 3841 2930
Fax: 01223 372862
Email: Paul.hersey@goeast.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.goeast.gov.uk>

20 November 2009

Dear Karen,

RE: COLCHESTER SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD – REGULATION 27

Further to our representation made to the above consultation on 22 October and following discussion with you, I am writing to confirm our agreement of your revised approach to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs in policy SA H2 of the Site Allocations DPD.

The Government Office's representation concerned the Council's approach to meeting Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs post 2011. Our representation centred specifically on the need for local authorities to allocate sites to meet the RSS pitch requirement for the entire plan period up to 2021. This raised potential soundness issues specifically concerning conformity with national and regional policy.

We accept that the RSS Single Issue Review was adopted at a point when Colchester's Site Allocations DPD was relatively well advanced and has triggered a need for further site identification work. You explained that this would take a considerable period of time to complete and result in significant delay to DPD adoption. You have since provided us with revised wording to policy SA H2 which would provide for an early review to enable the identification of sites for the post 2011 period.

We accept your proposed amendment to the policy, which will ultimately provide for an early policy review, as a pragmatic and realistic strategy for the delivery of Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely

**PAUL HERSEY
SENIOR PLANNING MANAGER
ESSEX, SOUTHEND AND THURROCK TEAM**