

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE		Report No. 8
Date of Meeting	2 nd October 2008	
Title of Report	Response of NWDC to the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West	
Portfolio	Built Environment	
Link to Corporate Priorities	All	
Key Decision	No	
Executive Workplan Ref	B405	
Public Report	Yes	

Summary of Report

Comments are requested from this Authority on the content of a major planning policy document currently under consideration by the Secretary of State. An analysis of the document suggests that there are no major objections to the proposals except in one case. It is considered that the proposed allocation of pitches for Gypsy and Traveller use is not justified and that objection can be made to the figures provided.

Officer Recommendations

That the Executive:

1. **Raise no objections to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy as proposed to be modified by the Secretary of State except that there is objection to the Gypsy and Traveller Additional Pitch Requirements to 2011 for the North Wiltshire Area.**
2. **Delegate authority to the Head of Policy and Performance to issue the relevant response to the Government of the South West in the appropriate form.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
None	Yes	Yes	None	None

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy were published by the Secretary of State in July and is out for public consultation with comments expected to be received by the 24th October 2008.
- 1.2 Appendix A sets out an assessment of the major points of interest in that document insofar as it affects the North Wiltshire area. It should be read in conjunction with the proposed changes to the RSS document should members wish to see the source material.
- 1.3 Copies are available either from this office or directly from the South West Regional Assembly website:
http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=4145

2. Options Appraisal

- 2.1 **Option 1: To raise no objections to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy as proposed to be modified by the Secretary of State except that there is objection to the Gypsy and Traveller Additional Pitch Requirements to 2011 for the North Wiltshire Area, and delegate authority to the Head of Policy and Performance to issue the relevant response to the Government of the South West in the appropriate form.**
- 2.2 **Option 2: To issue no comment from this Authority.**
- 2.3 **Option 3 – To make such alternative comments as proposed by members of the Executive.**

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The South West Regional Spatial Strategy is a statutory Planning document prepared by the South West Regional Assembly in co-operation with County and Unitary Authorities across the south-west and in consultation with the public. It has reached the stage where the Secretary of State, through the Government Office of the South West, has responded to the Panel of Inspectors who produced their Report in December last year.
- 3.2 It will, once approved within the next few months, be the principal planning document that will be required to be taken into account when local planning authorities makes planning decisions, whether in respect of individual planning applications, or in setting the basis of new Local Development Framework documents.
- 3.3 Officers have examined the content of the Proposed Changes to the RSS and have generally concluded that there are few comments that need to be made. Appendix A included a set of opinions following from an examination of each relevant part of that content.

4. The Gypsy and Traveller Additional Pitch Requirements

- 4.1 However, there is one exception to that generally favourable assessment and that is in respect of the provision made in the RSS for additional pitches for gypsies and

travellers. Appendix A sets out the technical case against the proposed number of pitches the proposed allocation of 48 pitches for the North Wiltshire area.

4.2 A draft letter has been included in Appendix C for consideration.

5. Financial, Human Resources, Legal, Community and Environmental Implications

5.1 No direct implications arise from this report. In the future, the RSS will drive a considerable number of implications as it is used to develop the new Wiltshire Authority's Local Development Framework.

Appendices:	<p>A - Analysis of the Proposed Changes to the RSS</p> <p>B – Additional Information on the Gypsy and Traveller additional pitch requirements.</p> <p>C – Draft letter to the Government of the South West.</p>
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<p>The Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West Incorporating the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes For Public Consultation July 2008.</p>

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
	NONE	NONE