

On 27 May 2010 the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote to Council leaders highlighting the Coalition Government's commitment to abolish rapidly the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). However, formal revocation has not yet occurred and, in legal terms, the RSS (the South East Plan) is still part of the development plan. Current national policy, including PPS12 and PPS3, remains in force. The Inspector will nevertheless take the Government's intention to abolish as a material consideration when dealing with the Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD Examination .

This is a fluid situation which the Inspector will keep under review. The Hearings Programme and the Matters and Issues for the Examination will not change at present. However, if further clarity is provided by Government before the end of the Examination period, the Inspector will seek the views of all representors on the implications. This will be done by means of further written representations or, if essential, an additional hearing session.