

Paul Lankester  
Chief Executive  
Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
Elizabeth House,  
Church Street,  
Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire CV37 6HX

29 June 2010

Dear Paul

### **Middle Quinton eco-town proposal**

I am writing to you and other authorities concerned with the Middle Quinton eco-town proposal. As you may recall the strategic aspects of the proposal for this location were included in the public examination of the draft West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy last year. Following receipt of the independent panel Report on the strategy, the then Secretary of State commissioned further work on Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation assessment of the draft strategy for the region and an announcement on this location was held back pending this further work.

It is the intention of the Coalition Government to revoke Regional Strategies. The Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles wrote to all local authorities on this matter in a letter dated 27 May, stating "there will be a return of decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Consequently, decisions on housing supply (including the provision of travellers sites) will rest with Local Planning Authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans". There will be a formal announcement on this matter soon.

No further work in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations assessment of the draft regional strategy is being undertaken. Any further planning work in relation to Middle Quinton, will now be a matter for the relevant parties and the Local Authorities concerned. As you will be aware documents which the Department previously published on this location were made available on the Department's website and will continue to be available on the National Archives website,

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+communities.gov.uk/>

In terms of going forward with eco-towns and eco-developments the Housing Minister has made clear that his priority is to see that plans are well supported locally and will achieve genuine improvements in sustainability. The Government will not designate or impose a solution on a particular area and will not support an eco-town if the local community are opposed to it.

I am copying this letter to LA Chief Executives at Wychavon, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Cotswold, local MPs, and Barton Wilmore (agents for the promoters of the Middle Quinton proposal).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JHCleary', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**HENRY CLEARY OBE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**