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16 October 2008

Our Reference: DP6

Your Reference:

BY EMAIL AND POST

Dear Richard

Conformity of the submission draft of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework and Generic Development Control Policies DPD with the published Regional Spatial Strategy

As you will be aware, the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West of England was published on 30 September 2008, although it is currently still in the six week period for potential legal challenge. The plan replaces the previous RSS (formerly RPG13).

I am writing to confirm that it is the opinion of the officers from 4NW that the above submitted core strategy and Development Control policies DPD are in general conformity with the final published Regional Spatial Strategy – The North West Plan (September 2008).

The figures featured in Table 9.3 of the final RSS have been amended compared to those that appeared in the submitted draft RSS (January 2006) and the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes (March 2008). The figures given for non-hazardous commercial and industrial waste (C&I waste) in the submitted draft RSS were based on available data prior to the completion of the North West regional survey of C&I waste that utilised 2006 baseline information. This survey provided significant improvement on previously available data, which dated back to a 2003 Environment Agency survey. Confidence in this survey is supported by both actual waste production data from industrial waste producers required to provide data to the Environment Agency under the Pollution Prevention and Control permit legislation and with respect to the quantities of C&I waste recorded as landfilled in the North West when compared with the C&I survey estimates for landfill.

In preparing the Proposed Changes to RSS, the Government Office were made aware that updated information was available based on the North West C&I survey. They subsequently decided that these should be used in the RSS. However, the figures used in the Proposed Changes were in error as they were not taken from the final North West survey report but from a previous unvalidated draft. This error was corrected to ensure that the final published RSS included the final agreed data. The figures published in the final published RSS therefore represent the best available data on C&I waste based on the latest available survey information.

In terms of the current study being undertaken by 4NW in partnership with the Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB), it is expected that a final version of the study will be agreed by the steering group on 22 October 2008.

I have copied in the Programme Officer to this letter. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Duncan McCorquodale
Regional Spatial Strategy Manager

c.c. Frank Lee, Programme Officer