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West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) & WECA Housing Infrastructure (HIF) Bid

I am writing further to the letter sent last week by Inspectors Malcolm Rivett and Steven Lee, copy enclosed, cancelling further hearings into the West of England Joint Spatial Plan due to concerns about the plan's soundness.

As you will read the specific area of concern is a lack of evidence that the Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) have been selected for inclusion in the plan, against reasonable alternatives, on a robust, consistent and objective basis.

Earlier this year I wrote to your predecessor as Secretary of State regarding a flawed proposal within the HIF Bid to build a new road into my constituency, which would have resulted in up to 20,000 vehicles a days passing a local primary school. As you would expect I fully support local residents in opposing this road, the construction of which was linked to a SDL location within Bath and North East Somerset, which I also oppose.

However there are many elements of the HIF Bid affecting the rest of Bristol which I strongly support. These include improvements to Bristol Temple Meads railway station and other projects within the city to facilitate much needed new homes in my constituency and elsewhere.

I would therefore be most grateful if you would confirm that funding consideration of these other parts of the HIF Bid will not be jeopardised by the issues with SDLs outside Bristol South highlighted by the JSP Inspectors..

Thank you for your help and I look forward to hearing from you.

Karin Smyth

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