



Kerry McCarthy
Labour MP for Bristol East

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

326a Church Road
Bristol BS5 8AJ

Hilary Severn
Campaign to Protect Rural England
The Countryside Room
Poole Court
Yate
South Gloucestershire
BS37 5PP

Our Ref: ln/CAMP01011/01081228

17 September 2008

Dear Hilary Severn

I am writing further to a letter of 14 August regarding proposed changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West.

I know that some people are concerned about the number of new homes being built in our region, and in particular that some houses might be built on Green Belt land. It is important to recognise, however, that there is a shortage of housing provision in the South West, and we need to address this problem to ensure that more people can afford to own their own homes; in particular families and those on low incomes.

As such I have welcomed the Government's commitment to build 3 million new houses between now and 2020, including the target for all homes to be carbon neutral in 2016, because without investment in sustainable housing we will not be able to cope with the rising demand for homes in our region.

I would be concerned, however, if this additional housing was to have a detrimental impact on our environment or our local infrastructure, and I will consider these proposals in full before the close of the consultation process next month.

I appreciate you taking the time to contact me about this issue; please do not hesitate to write to me again if I can be of further assistance in this or any other matter.

Yours sincerely

Kerry McCarthy
Labour MP for Bristol East