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| **REPORT TO EXECUTIVEH:\My Documents\cclogojpeg.jpg** |
| **PORTFOLIO AREA: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** |
| **Date of Meeting:** | **22nd November 2010**  |
| **Public** |  |
| **Key Decision:** | **No** | **Recorded in Forward Plan:** | **No** |
| **Inside Policy Framework** |

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| Title: | **REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY UPDATE** |
| Report of: | **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)** |
| Report reference: | **ED.38/10** |

**Summary:**

This report updates Members on the Government’s changes regarding Development Plans and the position relating to Carlisle’s planning policies.

**Recommendations:**

That Members note the latest position regarding Regional Spatial Strategy.

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1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

1.1 On the 6th July 2010, Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) with immediate effect.

1.2 The guidance which followed removed Regional Spatial Strategies from the Development Plan. Any planning applications considered by the Local Planning Authority must have regard to the Development Plan which for Carlisle then primarily comprised the Carlisle District Local Plan 2001-16 adopted in 2008. A report to Development Control Committee on the 1st October set out one of the main gaps arising from removal of RSS in relation to housing targets. Development Control Committee resolved at that time that the only option was to refer to the Local Plan until such time as new policies are developed.

1.3 On the 10th November a letter was issued by the Chief Planner at Department for Communities and Local Government. This letter confirms the outcome of a High Court case whereby Cala Homes had challenged the ability for the Secretary of State to revoke all Regional Spatial Strategies in their entirety. The effect of this High Court decision is to re-establish Regional Strategies as part of the Development Plan.

1.4 The Local Planning Authority must therefore once again have regard to Regional Spatial Strategy policies and targets when considering its planning applications. Executive considered report DS.23/06 which provided the City Council’s response to consultation and input into the development of RSS policies and targets.

1.5 In making this latest announcement the Secretary of State has reaffirmed his commitment to the removal of regional spatial strategy and will now put in place the appropriate legislation through the Localism Bill. The recent White Paper on Economic Growth also confirmed that changes to planning would be forthcoming through the new Bill. It therefore remains a clear Government commitment to abolish Regional Spatial Strategy.

1.6 In the recent announcement the Chief Planner states that Local Planning Authorities should still have regard to the letter of the 27th May 2010 as a material consideration in any decisions. The May letter sets out the intended policy framework which excluded RSS from development plans and issues relating to housing targets and housing supply. This letter confirms that targets should be set at the local level and this will now feature in the formal legislative process.

1.7 In order to achieve this aim and revisit the targets in an appropriate manner Members will note that report ED.36/10 on this agenda refers to the Issues Paper consultation for the Core Strategy as part of the Local Development Framework. This is the first stage of the framework which will provide new policy guidance and strategy for development in Carlisle district. As part of that process detailed work will be done to develop appropriate targets for housing taking into account local circumstances and consultation. This will be compliant with the considerations likely to be contained in the Localism Bill.

1.8 In conclusion, it is therefore appropriate for Members to note that with effect of the letter of the 10th November 2010 Regional Spatial Strategy once more forms part of the Development Plan and that any new policies and targets will be developed through the Local Development Framework process (subject to considerations of the Localism Bill).

1. **CONSULTATION**
	1. Consultation to Date.

 This paper reflects changing position on Government announcements. No consultation has been undertaken.

* 1. Consultation proposed.

 Consultation will be undertaken through the Local Development Framework in relation to new policies and targets.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the latest position regarding Regional Spatial Strategy

1. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To carry out the implications of recent announcements

1. **IMPLICATIONS**
* Staffing/Resources – Any subsequent work arising from government announcements will be undertaken within the planning policy team of Economic Development
* Financial – n/a
* Legal – This report refers to the recent successful legal challenge to the Government’s decision to revoke Regional Spatial Strategy in the case of Cala Homes South Ltd –v- Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Winchester City Council.
* Corporate – The Council’s priority of the Economy is partly delivered through the planning policy framework and is therefore considered in this report.
* Risk Management – Taking changes through the Local Development Framework will enable the council to fulfil the statutory requirements of setting new policies and therefore minimise risk
* Environmental – n/a
* Crime and Disorder – n/a
* Impact on Customers – customers are informed of changes that may impact on the consideration of planning matters as and when they arise.
* Equality and Diversity –

**Impact assessments**

**Does the change have an impact on the following?**

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| **Equality Impact Screening** | **Impact Yes/No?** | **Is the impact positive or negative?** |
| Does the policy/service impact on the following? |  |  |
| Age | **No** |  |
| Disability | **No** |  |
| Race | **No** |  |
| Gender/ Transgender | **No** |  |
| Sexual Orientation | **No** |  |
| Religion or belief | **No** |  |
| Human Rights | **No** |  |
| Social exclusion | **No** |  |
| Health inequalities | **No** |  |
| Rurality | **No** |  |

**If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:**

**This report reflects a return to previous policy which was developed through consultation processes and assessed during that development for its impact on equality.......................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................**

**If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.**