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From Professor Stephen Green 02 MAR 2006 11:55:08 PST

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21 March 2006

The Barker Review of Land Use Planning
HM Treasury

Dear Kate

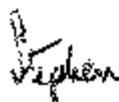
1. First my apologies for writing so late. Friends and university colleagues with whom I have discussed my earlier submission (20 February 2006) have pointed out the omission of a matter which is not only serious but also close to my current research interest. (My article "City Regions -- the way forward for strategic planning" in *Town and Country Planning* in October last year is about this subject). My omission relates to the impossibility of many local planning authorities delivering adequate spatial plans because their boundaries do not encompass whole urban areas. This is not only a problem of large metropolitan cities, but also of smaller ones, such as Exeter or Lincoln, where the city authority is surrounded with two, three or more district authorities into the areas of which urban expansion is taking place.

2. The answer may well lie in (yet another) reorganisation of local government, but neither do I expect this to arrive soon, nor would I be so presumptuous as expect the whole of local government reorganisation to turn on the requirements of one service, planning.

3. In the meantime, I suggest that the solution lies in the cooperation of local authorities with each other and regional bodies to produce, either as a joint plan, an inset in regional spatial strategy or as supplementary planning guidance, a plan outlining the spatial structure of city regions, large and small. The preparation of such a plan is notably a field in which the sub-regional expertise of county councils could well be employed.

4. Of course it may be argued from experience that the local planning authorities will not cooperate one with another. But experience suggests also that they will, given "help" from the regional planning body and the Government Office, and a default position that the regional planning body will act in their place.

With best regards



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