



COUNCILS AND  
COMMUNITIES  
IN PARTNERSHIP

2 March 2009

Dear Secretary of State

**PARTIAL REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE SOUTH EAST: POLICY M3 – PRIMARY LAND-WON AGGREGATES AND SUB-REGIONAL APPORTIONMENT**

On behalf of the Regional Assembly we are pleased to submit to you today our Partial Review of the South East Plan on primary land-won aggregates and sub-regional apportionment.

We have conducted the policy review in our role as Regional Planning Body under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, in accordance with the guidance set out in PPS1 I: Regional Planning.

Our submission comprises:

- Our recommendations for amends to the policy (including the pre-submission statement of consultation)
- Sustainability Appraisal (summary).

The inspectors for the Examination in Public of the minerals review in 2004 recommended that a more rounded and forward looking methodology to apportionment should be developed.

Our revised apportionment gives most weighting to where the future demand is likely to be and where aggregates resources are located and relatively unconstrained by national conservation or heritage designations. It also factors in the pattern of recent past sales to make the transition away from our sales-only approach less abrupt.

As well as changing the pattern of apportionment, the amended Policy M3 also proposes that the region's Mineral Planning Authorities should plan to provide for a smaller amount of aggregates in the future – about nine million tonnes of sand and gravel and 1.6 million tonnes of crushed rock a year.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Paul Carter  
**Chairman of the Assembly**

Moira Gibson  
**Chairman Regional Planning Committee**