



Councillor Alex Watson  
Chair, North East Assembly  
The Axis House,  
Maingate  
Kingsway  
North Team Valley  
Gateshead  
NE11 0NQ

**Baroness Andrews OBE**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

**Department for Communities and Local  
Government**

Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 020 7944 3083  
Fax: 020 7944 4538  
E-Mail: [baroness.andrews@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:baroness.andrews@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**July 2008**

*Dear Councillor Watson,*

## **PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN**

I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary of State has this month issued the North East of England Plan, (the revision to the draft North East Regional Spatial Strategy), and supporting documents, copies of which are on the CD which is enclosed with the document.

This is the latest of the English regional RSS reviews to be completed. It embeds within the statutory planning system a sustainable long term vision for development of the North East region. Based on the draft plan produced by the North East Assembly in 2004, it is a major step forward in the delivery of more affordable housing, better transport plans, and the environmental controls the region needs, and represents a long-term vision to tackle climate change, address housing shortages and strengthen the region's economy.

All the representations received on the Proposed Changes and Further Proposed Changes have been carefully considered in finalising the Plan, and a Summary of Representations is included in the supporting documents. Account has also been taken of Government policy developments so that the Plan assists in the achievement of high level objectives. The material changes made to the RSS at the final stage, following the consultation on the Further Proposed Changes, are identified in the Statement of Reasons, which is included in the supporting documents.

Copies of the RSS, the CD containing supporting documents, and this letter, are being sent to all of the regions MPs and MEPs, and will be available for public inspection in local planning authorities and branch libraries throughout the region. They can also be viewed and downloaded from the website of the Government Office ([www.go-ne.gov.uk](http://www.go-ne.gov.uk)) and the North East Assembly ([www.northeastassembly.gov.uk](http://www.northeastassembly.gov.uk)). Paper copies of the Plan can be purchased from TSO who can be contacted through their website ([www.tsoshop.co.uk](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk)), by email ([book.orders@tso.co.uk](mailto:book.orders@tso.co.uk)) or by telephone (0870 600 5522).

The North East of England Plan is a key milestone putting in place a strategy for sustainable growth and setting the strategic planning context for decision makers in the North East of England for the period to 2021 and beyond. The challenge now is to ensure that it is implemented efficiently and effectively. We look forward to working with you, the local authorities, and other key partners in meeting this challenge.



**BARONESS ANDREWS**