Dear Ms Waye,

SKDC SAP – ADDITIONAL MATTERS – LANDSCAPE – NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Our Chamber has in its representations made on 18th November 2011 set out its views on the matter of utilizing brown field land in preference to green field land. Since then in March 2012 the National Planning Policy Framework has been published.

It states under the Ministerial Foreword at Page i. the following:

Our historic environment – buildings, landscapes, towns and villages – can better be cherished if their spirit of place thrives, rather than withers

Our standards of design can be so much higher. We are a nation renowned worldwide for creative excellence, yet, at home, confidence in development itself has been eroded by the too frequent experience of mediocrity.

It also states under the heading Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment at paragraph 109 on Page 25 the following:

109. The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;

These statements do not reflect new legislation, policy or guidance. In fact these statements reflect well established and long existing principles and policies of English Town and Country Planning.

This work by SCOT has shown that SKDC’s proposed allocation of Stamford sites cannot be substantiated in terms of the National Planning Policy Framework, and pre existing principles and policies in respect of the requirement to give priority to developing brownfield land ahead of greenfield land.

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As a result, the methods used in the selection of sites for allocation renders the SAP unsound. It is not 'Justified' as:

A. The sites selections are not the most appropriate “strategy” when considered against the reasonable alternatives.

B. One reasonable alternative, that proposed by SCOT, has not even been considered for inclusion in the selection process.

Furthermore, the SAP is unsound as it is not “consistent” with National Policy.

We invite the SAP Inspector to consider these points which we think render the SAP unsound.

Yours sincerely,

Eg. Gilman

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For Stamford Chamber of Trade & Commerce

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