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Mr P Crysell
c/o Kath Thorne
Programme Officer
South Gloucestershire LDF – Core Strategy
Examination

Date: 4 March 2013
Your Ref:
Our Ref: JC/lb
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Dear Mr Crysell

South Gloucestershire Core Strategy

I am taking this opportunity to write to you as Leader of South Gloucestershire Council as examination of the Council's Core Strategy reaches its final stage and as you prepare to complete your final recommendations to the council. I am very grateful to you for providing the timetable and I look forward to receiving your final draft recommendations.

As you are aware the council is fully committed to bring forward the Core Strategy. The Council's commitment to bring forward a Core Strategy to safeguard a plan-led approach to delivering the development needed by our communities has been unwavering despite the uncertainties caused by the emerging national planning policy context and the unforeseen closure of Filton Airfield. The Council nevertheless continues to face considerable pressure from speculative pre-application developer proposals and wishes to minimise any risk of entering a period of 'planning by appeal'. Not only does the council wish for the strategic development allocations to be confirmed through an adopted Core Strategy as speedily as possible so work can begin in earnest on their delivery through the development management process, the adoption is also a critical trigger for other related investment programmes. The most significant of these is the Bristol North Fringe to Hengrove major transport scheme which includes the Stoke Gifford Transport Link. This is a scheme which we are bringing forward in partnership with the other West of England Authorities and for which the timetabling and funding (including national funding allocations) is contingent on the certainty which will flow from the adoption of the Core Strategy.

I therefore look forward to receiving your report as per your timetable to enable the Council to move swiftly to adoption. On behalf of South Gloucestershire Council, can I pass on my thanks and appreciation for the effort and commitment you have made to delivering the Core Strategy.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR JOHN CALWAY
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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