



EIP/NWRA/8 (December 2006)

Panel Question

A number of parties referred to Policy SD4 in RPG13. Could the Assembly please explain briefly why this was not carried forward into Draft RSS

Policy SD4 was incorporated into the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy as a mechanism to ensure that the reviews of Local Plans would consider whether existing and proposed allocations were fully justified, having regard to the Core Development Principles and Spatial Development Framework of RSS.

The policy has in effect served its purpose through the provision of guidance to the last round of reviews of Local Plans that carried out the required reviews of existing and potential allocations.

Furthermore, policy SD4 has been superseded by policies in the submitted draft RSS including W3 and MCR3. Moreover, policies DP1, RDF1, RDF2, RDF3, RDF5 and EM5 provide an over-arching framework similar to that stated in SD4 (Core Development Principles and Spatial Development Framework).

Concerns may be raised that the message delivered by SD4 regarding the need for restraint has been diluted through the omission of a specific policy for North Cheshire. Assembly officers consider that sufficient coverage is provided by the suite of policies from the draft RSS noted above.