

## Latest Planning Policy News - Older News Bulletins: 2010

### **NOVEMBER 2010**

#### **Planning Focus Update: Regional Spatial Strategy Returns...temporarily**

The Government's cancellation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (also known as the Yorkshire & Humber Plan, which gave Craven a housing target of 250 dwellings per year) has been overturned by a legal judgement. However, the Government is unfazed and continues to press ahead with its reforms of the planning system. In the meantime, the Regional Spatial Strategy is back, along with its housing targets and policies on affordable housing, renewable energy and so on. The Government's plans mean that the return is likely to be short-lived and a letter issued by their Chief Planner continues to undermine the Regional Spatial Strategy as a relevant planning consideration.

### **JULY 2010**

#### **Changes to the Planning System Following the Change of Government**

The new Coalition Government has announced the following changes to the Planning system in an attempt to make the system more localised. The aim is to incentivise local people to make decisions about their communities rather than having targets imposed on them by higher levels of government:

**Revocation of RSS:** The government has revoked the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and it no longer forms part of the development plan. The development plan now consists of saved Local Plan policies, any adopted LDF documents and national planning policy. The RSS previously set out district level house building targets and these will now be set by Local Authorities in close consultation with communities. The abolition of the RSS will require legislation in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill which will be introduced to parliament later this year. The aim of the Bill will be to devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities control over housing and planning decisions.

**Changes to PPS 3:** The government has altered the definition of previously development land (also known as brownfield land) in national Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3: Housing, and excluded private residential gardens from this definition. This will help curb 'garden grabbing', a trend of recent years that has seen many gardens concreted over in an effort to meet targets for housing developments on brownfield land. The government has also removed the minimum density requirements of 30 housings per hectare for residential development.