

Head of Planning Health & Environment Division
Wyre Forest District Council
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2JX

Western Division

Government Office for the West Midlands
5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

☎: Tel 0121 352 5454

☎: Fax number 0121 352 5403

✉: email address

karen.rose@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

Date: 28 October 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SUBMISSION**

Thank you for consulting the Government Office for the West Midlands on the above document. I enclose the Government Office's objections to the submission document based on the 'tests of soundness'. This letter also sets out a number of additional comments which you are requested to bring to the attention of the Inspector.

The SCI should be strengthened by the inclusion of all 'hard to reach' groups with the local area of your authorities area, this should be based on sound evidence.

The reference made to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) should be accompanied by a statement of where the document can be found such as your authority's website or council offices.

To raise community awareness the reference made to West Midlands Planning Aid Service (WMPAS) should include the contact details of the organisation.

Appendix 1 section E2a refers to the Government Departments to be consulted via the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM). In addition to the ones identified in the SCI the following Government Departments are also consulted via GOWM:

- Home Office
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Department of Health
- Department of Constitutional Affairs
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport

As your authority is part of a two-tier framework the SCI should include an explanation which differentiates between the types of planning applications your authority deals with compared to those of the County Council.

A statement which clearly emphasises the fact that while a general consensus will be sort when engaging local communities it will not always be possible to achieve should be included in the SCI in an appropriate section.

A general profile of the local area should be included at the beginning of the document to reflect the local circumstances of the Wyre Forest area. This would then help to articulate how the SCI reflects local circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Karen Rose
Temporary Team Leader
Planning - Western Division