

To: Local Authority Chief Executives

17 April 2009

Dear Chief Executive,

### **MIDDLE QUINTON ECO-TOWN**

I am writing to you and other local authorities concerned with the Middle Quinton eco-town proposal. As you will be aware, the Examination in Public (EiP) of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision will open on 28 April 2009 and will consider the draft revision and options for the scale and distribution of housing growth amongst other matters. A range of alternative options including eco towns, new settlements and urban extensions have been put forward by the Panel to consider which may be necessary to achieve the range of higher housing levels set out in the advice from the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit.

The EiP will be able to hear from relevant parties and draw on any relevant material which has been published in connection with the eco town process, as well as representations on this issue previously made to the Panel. The consideration of new settlements to accommodate additional housing numbers and the consideration of Middle Quinton is a matter which is to be considered at the EiP. The Panel will prepare a report into the EiP, following which the Secretary of State will consider any proposed changes to the draft revision. In light of the RSS review and the timing of the EiP, a decision on Middle Quinton as a potential location for an eco town will not be taken until after the Secretary of State has considered the Panel report. I am copying this letter to MPs, parish councils and other local groups with an interest in these proposals.

Yours sincerely



**HENRY CLEARY**  
Deputy Director