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Dear Ms Alpin

DIRECTION UNDER PARAGRAPH 1(3) OF SCHEDULE 8 TO THE PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 POLICIES CONTAINED IN THE BASILDON DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

I am writing with reference to your application of March 2007 applying for a direction under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in respect of policies in the Basildon District Local Plan.

The Secretary of State's Direction (Schedule 1) is attached. Those policies not listed in the Direction will expire on 27th September 2007.

The Secretary of State's assessment of whether saved policies should be extended is based upon the criteria set out in Planning Policy Statement 12 and the Department for Communities and Local Government Protocol on saving policies. The Secretary of State's decisions have the effect of saving two policies that your authority requested should not be extended. For clarity, where this circumstance applies the Secretary of State's reasons are set out in the table at the end of this letter.

The extension of saved policies listed in this Direction does not indicate that the Secretary of State would endorse these policies if presented to her as new policy. It is intended to ensure continuity in the plan-led system and a stable planning framework locally, and in particular, a continual supply of land for development.

Local planning authorities should not suppose that a regulatory local plan style approach will be supported in forthcoming Development Plan Documents. Authorities should adopt a positive spatial strategy-led approach to DPD preparation and not seek to reintroduce the numerous policies of many local plans.

The exercise of extending saved policies is not an opportunity to delay DPD preparation. Local planning authorities should make good progress with local development frameworks according to the timetables in their local development schemes. Policies have been extended in the expectation that they will be replaced promptly and by fewer policies in DPDs. Maximum use should be made of national and regional policy.

Following 27 September 2007 the extended policies should be read in context. Where policies were adopted some time ago, it is likely that material considerations, in particular the emergence of new national and regional policy and also new evidence, will be afforded considerable weight in decisions. In particular, we would draw your attention to the importance of reflecting policy in Planning Policy Statement 3: *Housing* and the results of Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments in relevant decisions.

Policy Ref	Extended	Reason
BAS S2 Housing sites	√	Elements of this site allocation policy are not implemented.
BAS S3 Areas of special reserve	√	The areas of special reserve are not implemented. It is more appropriate to test the suitability of the areas as part of the Local Development Framework process.

Signed by the authority of the
Secretary of State

Alex Plant
Deputy Regional Director of Development & Infrastructure
Government Office for the East of England
20 September 2007

