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Dear Brian

**PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK LDF CORE STRATEGY: CONFORMITY WITH THE REGIONAL PLAN**

Thank you for your letter of 10 December consulting East Midlands Councils (EMC) on the Peak District National Park LDF Core Strategy.

EMC's response is based solely on the East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009), and does not address any of the other tests of 'soundness' set out in PPS12. As you will be aware the High Court recently confirmed that the Regional Plan will remain part of the statutory development plan until it is abolished by primary legislation.

It is acknowledged that the Core Strategy was developed very much within the context of Regional Plan, and that earlier versions of the Core Strategy included numerous cross references to Regional Plan policy and text.

In assessing the conformity of the Core Strategy against the Regional Plan, it is noted that:

- The general approach to spatial development set out in the Development Strategy would appear to be consistent with Policies 7 to 10 of the Regional Plan;
- The approach to new housing proposed is consistent with Policy 13a of the Regional Plan, which does not include a strategic housing provision figure for the PDNPA;
- The proposed policies on affordable housing and provision for gypsies and travellers are consistent with the approaches set out in Policies 14 and 15 of the Regional Plan respectively;

- The requirement to make provision for 'progressive reduction' in minerals extraction is consistent with Policy 37 of the Regional Plan;
- The approach to low carbon and renewable energy development is consistent with Policy 40 of the Regional Plan;
- The approaches to environmental and green infrastructure, climate change, flood risk, tourism and transport all appear to be generally consistent with the relevant policies of the Regional Plan;

In conclusion, the Core Strategy taken as whole would appear to be in 'general conformity' with the Regional Plan.

If you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Pritchard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Pritchard  
Director of Strategy