



Councillor Moira Gibson  
Chairman, South East England Partnership Board Planning Panel  
South East England Partnership Board  
Berkeley House  
Cross Lanes  
GUILDFORD  
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14 December 2009

Dear Moira

**Developing a new Strategy for the South East – provision of information and advice**

I am writing on behalf of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) in respect of your letter of 4 November 2009 to all local authorities in the region regarding the above.

You are no doubt aware of PUSH and the role it played in the preparation of the South East Plan, notably in formulating the sub-regional strategy for South Hampshire which was incorporated in the final South East Plan with only a few changes.

PUSH welcomes the statement in your letter that *“evidence relating to sub-regions identified within the South East Plan ... will be collected from the sub-regional groups or partnerships.”* I am pleased to see this recognition of the role which sub-regional partnerships like PUSH will play in the preparation of the new regional Strategy. PUSH is currently updating the data and forecasts which underpin the South Hampshire sub-regional strategy and this will be an important input to preparation of the successor strategy. PUSH should be able to share that updated information with you and your officers in summer next year.

I must however seek reassurances over statements elsewhere in your letter which imply that evidence and advice (and therefore, I presume, the eventual policies) must relate to whole and not part districts. That would be of considerable concern to PUSH, because the South Hampshire sub-region comprises parts of four districts. Realigning the boundary so that the sub-region only includes whole districts would either mean excluding important urbanised tracts of South Hampshire or extending

the area to include the New Forest National Park, Andover town and Alton. Both of these would be nonsensical and be strongly opposed by PUSH. I therefore ask for a reassurance that the South Hampshire sub-region boundary will remain unchanged in the new Regional Strategy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Seán Woodward  
Chairman of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire