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**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government*

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Councillor Nigel Ashton
Leader of North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Somerset
BS23 1UJ

Tel: 0303 444 3450
Fax: 020 7035 0018
E-Mail: greg.clark@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

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19 July 2015

Dear Nigel

Thank you for your letter of 28 May, regarding North Somerset Council's Local Plan. I note the points that you make and I have sympathy with the position that the Council finds itself in given that substantial effort will have gone into developing the Local Plan.

As you are aware I intervened in the North Somerset Plan by direction on 27 March. This was in order to review and consider the inspector's conclusions on Policy CS13 Housing Requirement to ensure national policy has been applied and reflected correctly and in order to ensure that there is maximum clarity for the community on the outcome of the examination.

I hope you will appreciate that this process requires thorough consideration of the issues and, therefore, that at this stage I cannot comment on timescales for its conclusion or indeed its outcome. However, I can assure you that the Government attaches great importance to getting Local Plans in place in all areas. In this context we are putting every effort into considering the Local Plan as a priority, and I will keep you informed of progress as soon as I am able.

If you have any questions about the process, Tom Bristow is my official taking this forward and would be happy to discuss any issues you may have. He is available at: tom.bristow@communities.gsi.gov.uk; or on 0303 444 1714.

with best wishes

NORTH SOMERSET
COUNCIL
22 JUL 2015
LEADER'S OFFICE

THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP