

2/06/99

Our File Ref: 7.5.10

Roger Smithson  
Plans & Compensation Division  
DETR  
4/H1 Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

02/06/99

Dear Mr. Smithson,

**Examination of the Operation and Effectiveness of the  
Structure Planning Process: Summary Report.**

I am pleased to submit the comments of the Institution on the above report.

We consider that this is a good report and are in general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations. We believe that the Structure Plan has a significant place in the overall-planning framework between national/regional plans and local or district plans.

We would stress the importance of a number of the detailed recommendations:

- Continuously monitor existing policies.
- Ensure the results of such monitoring are linked with plan preparation and review.
- Strongly link the structure plan to other related strategy development (e.g. economic development/transport/local agenda 21 etc)

We would also recommend the widest consultation as part of the EIP process.

In our comments relating to PPGN 12 on Regional Planning we stressed the importance of economic and financial assessments of development proposals. This should be a continuing process through the Structure Plan and into the local planning process. Equally important is the parallel application of principles of sustainable development as the two are often interactive.

We trust that the above comments are helpful in your future deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Dr. R. A. Fuller  
Hon. Secretary