



12 SEP 2004

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Appendix B

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

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20 September 2004

Dear Duncan

HOUSING STOCK OPTIONS APPRAISAL

I am writing following the first meeting of the Stock Options Appraisal Commission yesterday. I was pleased to hear that the group agreed its terms of reference and work programme.

Ministers are taking a close interest in progress towards the decent homes target and options appraisals. Government Offices report to Ministers regularly on position of local authorities in their regions and are focusing on those authorities who are considered at risk of not meeting the decent homes target by 2010 and/or not achieving a signed-off options appraisal by July 2005. I wanted to let you know that, although all the indications suggest that South Kesteven can meet the decent homes target well within the deadline, we regard the District "at risk" of not completing the options appraisal process by July 2005.

We have been working with officers of the District since August 2003 to try to move the options appraisal forward and clearly it has been very slow to get off the ground. We are satisfied that things are now moving forward. However the project plan for completion of the process is extremely challenging and will require the full commitment of the council to deliver to the best outcome for tenants and the local authority and demonstrate the necessary robustness for sign off. Both ourselves and the Community Housing Taskforce will therefore be looking to work very closely with members, officers and tenants over the forthcoming months to ensure that the options appraisal is carried out robustly and to timetable. We will, of course, offer as much support and guidance and we can and would be grateful if you could ensure that options appraisal is kept high on the agenda within the council.

Yours sincerely

JILL PATEMAN

