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Ms Yvette Cooper
Minister for Housing and Planning
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
26 Whitehall
LONDON
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Dear Ms. Cooper

Audit Commission Inspection
South Kesteven Strategic Housing Services

Thank you for your letter of 15th December, 2005 regarding the Audit Commission's report of the inspection of South Kesteven District Council's Strategic Housing Services.

I am pleased that you have noted that there is strong commitment to drive through improvements to the housing service and that this has been recognised by GO East Midlands.

During the inspection and since receiving the final report members and officers have seriously considered the Commission's findings and have put into place a number of significant measures, which I am sure, will lead to a major improvement and development of the service. In particular these are:

- Adopted the improvement plan implementing the recommendations arising from the Strategic Housing inspection report
- Appointment of a new member champion for Housing Cllr Frances Cartwright who is now responsible for all of the Council's Housing Services
- Allocation of additional funding £210,000 (in year) to create and facilitate additional capacity from the Council's Capacity and Priority budgets and Reserves
- Implementation of a restructure of Housing and Associated Services to create two distinct units
 - "Housing Solutions" to create a unit to focus on the delivery of the Council's Strategic and Statutory housing functions