

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
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9 May 2022

Dear Michael,

I regret to inform you that it has not proved possible to reach unanimous agreement on the Spatial Development Strategy for the West of England. The Combined Authority, Bristol City and Bath and North Somerset councils agreed an evidence-led figure for housing of 92,000 - the closest we could get to the Government's 105,000 figure. However unfortunately this is not acceptable to South Gloucestershire council who wanted a lower figure.

Not only would a lower figure mean we did not provide much needed homes, my officers tell me they have not seen sufficient technical evidence to suggest why 92,000 homes do not have reasonable prospect of delivery. This would mean a significant risk to the soundness of the plan.

I have halted all further work on the SDS as I cannot justify spending any more taxpayers' money on this endeavour.

If you require any further information please let my officers know and I am sorry to be the bearer of bad news.

Yours ever,

Dan

Dan Norris, Metro Mayor for the West of England

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