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## Joint Ministerial Statement on Sustainable Waste Management

I hope by now you have received your copy of the draft of the new Planning Policy Statement 10 *Planning for Sustainable Waste Management*. The introduction to the consultation document refers to a joint Parliamentary Statement by the Minister for Environment (Elliot Morley) and the Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill). I attach a copy. Draft PPS10 and the wider consultation on waste of which it forms part can be accessed via the ODPM's website (<Planning><Consultation papers>).

The Statement underlines that the Government's vision for waste, embodying the principles of sustainable development, is to protect the environment and human health by producing less waste and using it as a resource wherever possible. In particular, as you know, this means reducing reliance on landfill and making a step-change in waste management, including significant new investment in waste plant.

I would like to draw your attention in particular to the Ministers' recognition of the pivotal role played by the planning system (paragraph 7) and to the importance of planning for, and consenting, the necessary number and range of facilities to support sustainable waste management. Up-to-date and fit for purpose planning strategies for waste, regionally and locally, are the key to timely consenting of appropriate applications and successful delivery on the ground.

Locally, this includes identifying through plans sufficient opportunities, which in many cases will mean sites, to support sustainable waste management. My colleague Lisette Simcock has written recently on priorities for local development schemes (LDS) identifying, inter alia, the need for up-to-date waste plans to support delivery of the Government's national waste strategy and the contribution this makes to meeting EU obligations. Allocating sites is part of this. It is important therefore that in drawing up LDSs waste planning authorities liaise with their Government Office as soon as possible about the need for a site allocation development plan document (DPD). Depending on the content of the existing plan, waste could be one of the local circumstances highlighted by Lisette that justifies the preparation of such a DPD in parallel with the core strategy. It does not follow from this of course that there need be joint examination of the two DPDs for the reasons set out in Lisette's letter.

I am copying this to the LGA, Planning Inspectorate and Government Office Planning Directors.

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