



The Rt Hon John Healey MP
Minister for Housing & Planning
Department for Communities
& Local Government
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Dear Mr Healey

Burden on Local Authorities from the Planning Act 2008

I am writing to express the Planning Officers Society's support for the contents of the letter of 5 January 2010 sent to you by Fergus McMorrow, Acting Chief Executive of Copeland Borough Council.

The Society agrees with Mr McMorrow's analysis of the new responsibilities that will be placed on local authorities under the Planning Act 2008, the additional costs that discharging those responsibilities will involve and the loss of funding that will accompany them.

Copeland Borough Council's concerns about the additional duties and costs imposed by the Act are no doubt given added urgency by the fact that Sellafield in the borough is identified as the location for a new nuclear power station in the draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Energy. However, the additional duties and costs so cogently argued in Mr McMorrow's letter will also apply to a wide range of national infrastructure proposals. Most of these have not yet had locations identified in draft NPS but potentially the additional duties and costs could fall on any local authority in England.

I therefore urge you to accept the argument that the Planning Act 2008 places new burdens on local authorities and to take appropriate steps to provide councils with the extra resources needed to discharge these new responsibilities. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

David Hackforth
President
(copy to Steve Quartermain, Chief Planner DCLG)