

The Co-operative Group  
Response

Draft Planning Policy  
Statement: Eco-towns

Document 4

**The Co-operative Group Response to Harborough  
District Council Full Council Report, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

*an* **ECO-TOWN**  
*for* **LEICESTERSHIRE**

**The Co-operative Group Response to Harborough District Council Report to the Full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 'Eco-town: Response to Consultation by the Department for Communities and Local Government on the draft Eco-town Planning Policy Statement**

The Co-operative Group notes the contents of the report and the recommended response to Government in relation to the draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement (EPPS) consultation. It welcomes the approach taken by the Council in offering an appropriate and measured response that directly relates to the content of the draft EPPS in order to ensure that it retains its unfettered position as a local planning authority. It is mindful that the Council will operate in this role if the scheme is progressed through the planning system.

With reference to paragraph 1.4 of Appendix 1 of the Council's report, which relates to a draft letter to Henry Cleary, the promoter would like to point out that paragraph 37 of Planning Policy Statement 3 is clear in providing guidance that new settlements are one of a range of options available to planning bodies in considering their strategy for housing within regional or sub-regional housing market areas. There is therefore no requirement for new settlements, whether in a 'business as usual' format or as eco-towns, to be re-introduced as a means of accommodating housing growth.

The promoter also notes the comments made in paragraph 1.7 of the Council's letter with regard to Judicial Review. The circumstances set out by the Council reflect the normal planning process. In the process set out by Government in the EPPS, eco-towns would be scrutinised through the normal planning process with recourse to judicial review where appropriate. It is considered that this offers an adequate means of assessing such schemes.