



Councillor John Reynolds  
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**Ian Austin MP**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State*

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29<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Cllr Reynolds

**East of England Plan Regional Spatial Strategy – Single Issue Review  
regarding Thurrock Lakeside - the Secretary of State's final policies ETG2 and  
E5**

I am writing to inform you that the Secretary of State's revision to the East of England Plan, following the single issue review in respect of Thurrock Lakeside, is published today. The revision provides a revised policy ETG2 based exactly on the wording that the Secretary of State consulted upon at the Proposed Changes stages last year.

Through this policy review the northern part of the Lakeside Basin becomes a Regional Centre and forms part of the Regional Structure of Town Centres defined in the East of England Plan and Policy E5 is updated to reflect this change. Driving the transformation, and conditional upon accompanying mixed use growth and a range of sustainability measures, is the proposal for a further 50,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional net comparison retail floorspace by 2019.

As noted at the Proposed Changes consultation, the new policy is strongly rooted in the draft submitted by EERA and the excellent preparatory work upon which this was based. May I again extend my thanks to the members and officials of the Regional Assembly for their commitment in taking forward this important review to a timely conclusion.

The Secretary of State expects Thurrock Council to work closely with stakeholders to carry this review forward to detailed implementation through its Local Development Framework. He hopes that through these efforts we will see the emergence of a sustainable new regional centre to serve the growing community of Thurrock and this will act as a catalyst to further regeneration in the Essex Thames Gateway.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Austin", written in a cursive style.

**IAN AUSTIN**