



**8Di / DTZ for Church Commissioners for England (7548)**

**South East Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy Examination**

**December 2006**

**8Di – Strategy and Economy**

***8Di.1 – Does the proposed strategy appropriately identify and respond to the differing circumstances within this sub-region, within the context of its environmental attributes?***

The Church Commissioners support the proposal to build upon the distinct economic roles of the sub-region. It is considered to be key to its growth role that Ashford, with its high-speed rail links to Europe, should develop as an office and business node. This economic growth role needs to be supported by a substantial level of new housing development, which has been acknowledged elsewhere in the plan. The reference to Ashford as a growth area for housing and employment is therefore welcomed.



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***8Di.2 – Does the draft RSS make appropriate provision for significant growth in economic activity (Policies EKA3-7, RE5)?***

The Church Commissioners support the proposal to build on the distinct economic roles of each sub-region, and in particular to the reference to Ashford as a growth area for housing and employment. It is considered key to facilitate economic growth in Ashford through the delivery of a significant level of new housing development, as set out in the South East Plan.