



gatwick**diamond**

Local Strategic Statement Memorandum of Understanding



EDITORIAL NOTE

This Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared by the Gatwick Diamond Local Authorities working under the umbrella of the Gatwick Diamond Initiative. It has been considered and endorsed by the following Local Authorities:

Surrey County Council
West Sussex County Council
Crawley Borough Council
Horsham District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Mole Valley District Council
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Tandridge District Council

The Memorandum of Understanding was prepared in the context of a changing legislative framework. Its wording reflects the stage that the changes had reached in July 2011 when it was presented to the Local Authorities for consideration. Legislative and other changes will be incorporated into any future revisions. The following table records changes as they are made and agreed by the Local Authorities.

Memorandum of Understanding		
Version	Commentary	Date Published
Original Document	As considered by Local Authorities Sept 2011 – Jan 2012	March 2012

The document is available in a range of other formats on request to the local authorities listed below. For further enquiries please contact:

Surrey County Council, Spatial Planning Team
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Crawley Borough Council, Forward Planning Section
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Horsham District Council, Strategic Planning Team.
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Mid Sussex District Council
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Mole Valley District Council
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Tandridge District Council
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GATWICK DIAMOND LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum of understanding establishes a framework for co-operation between the eight 'Gatwick Diamond' local authorities with respect to strategic planning and development issues. It is framed within the context of the emerging Localism Bill and the duty to cooperate proposed in Clause 90. It sets out the way in which the authorities will consult one another and work together on matters which affect more than one local authority area.

PARTIES TO THE MEMORANDUM

The Memorandum is agreed by the following Councils:

- ❖ Surrey County Council
- ❖ West Sussex County Council
- ❖ Crawley Borough Council
- ❖ Horsham District Council
- ❖ Mid Sussex District Council
- ❖ Mole Valley District Council
- ❖ Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
- ❖ Tandridge District Council

LIMITATIONS

The Local Authorities recognise that there will not always be full agreement with respect to all of the issues on which they have agreed to cooperate. For the avoidance of doubt, this Memorandum shall not fetter the discretion of any of the local authorities in the determination of any planning application, or in the exercise of any of its statutory powers and duties, or in its response to consultations, and is not intended to be legally binding.

OBJECTIVES

The Memorandum has the following broad objectives:

- ❖ To help secure a broad but consistent approach to strategic planning and development issues across the Gatwick Diamond
- ❖ To enable a sharing of information and views and, where appropriate, to facilitate joint working on strategic issues which affect more than one local authority area
- ❖ To ensure that the local planning and development policies prepared by each local authority are, where appropriate, informed by the views of other local authorities within the Gatwick Diamond area
- ❖ To ensure that decisions on major planning applications which have effects across more than one local authority area are informed by the views of other local authorities within the Gatwick Diamond area

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Local Authorities will jointly:

- ❖ Prepare, maintain and update a Local Strategic Statement which provides a broad strategic direction for the Gatwick Diamond and establishes areas for inter-authority cooperation on strategic issues
- ❖ Develop and implement a programme for jointly addressing strategic planning and development issues
- ❖ Maintain liaison with the Local Enterprise Partnership(s) on the work they are undertaking

POLICY DOCUMENTS

Each Local Authority will:

- ❖ Notify the Chairman of the Gatwick Diamond Grow Group and the other Local Authorities at each consultation stage in the preparation of its local development documents or, in the case of a County Council, its local transport plan
- ❖ Notify the Chairman of the Gatwick Diamond Grow Group and the other local authorities of consultation on any other policy document which, in its view, would have a significant impact on strategic planning or development within the Gatwick Diamond
- ❖ If requested, meet with and discuss any issues raised by one or more of the other Local Authorities and take into account any views expressed on those issues.

Any response from the Gatwick Diamond will be made by the Chairman of the Gatwick Diamond Overview Group, acting as a representative of the Gatwick Diamond Initiative, independent from the individual local authorities.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Each Local Authority will:

- ❖ Notify the Chairman of the Gatwick Diamond Grow Group and the other local authorities of any major planning applications, from within its area or on which it is consulted by a local authority from outside its area, which would, in its view, have a significant impact on the strategic planning and development of the Gatwick Diamond, having particular regard to the Local Strategic Statement agreed by the Councils and
- ❖ Take into account any views expressed in determining the application.

Any response from the Gatwick Diamond will be made by the Chairman of the Gatwick Diamond Overview Group as a representative of the Gatwick Diamond who is independent from the individual local authorities.

LIAISON

Member level representatives of the Local Authorities will meet twice yearly, or more frequently when appropriate, in order to;

- ❖ Maintain and update the Local Strategic Statement and the joint work programme
- ❖ Monitor the preparation of policy documents across the Gatwick Diamond and discuss strategic issues emerging from them
- ❖ Review work undertaken jointly by the Gatwick Diamond Local Authorities

The Gatwick Diamond 'Grow Group' will oversee joint working between the Local Authorities and will maintain an 'Officer Working Group' to take forward an agreed programme.

TIMESCALE

The Memorandum of Understanding is intended to run for a two year period from October 2011 but will be reviewed in October 2012 to establish how effective it has been.

TBK 25.07.11