



Planning Inspectorate

Examination of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039

Inspector: Louise Nurser BA (Hons), MA, Dip UP MRTPI
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Dear Ms Hall

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021- 2039: Stage 1 Findings

1. Thank you for your letter of 22 September. You say, in short, that your evidence concerning the Duty to Cooperate “*could have been better presented*” and you request a further opportunity to do that.
2. I have given the Council ample opportunity to present its case on the Duty to Cooperate: following my letter in August 2024 highlighting my Duty to Cooperate concerns; in your hearing statement; and at the hearing itself, where significant time was spent considering the issue in depth, and afterwards, where the Council was able to provide me with further supporting evidence.
3. It is most unfortunate and disappointing, to say the least, that despite these opportunities the Council feels it has not presented its case as it should have done. Your letter offers no illumination as to why that is, or precisely what the Council’s shortcomings have been.
4. However, as you will be aware, the Minister of State wrote to the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate on 9 October. That letter makes clear that the Government’s expectation is that Inspectors should exercise a degree of flexibility, including by providing additional opportunities to clarify compliance with the Duty to Cooperate. In light of this, I agree to your request and will hold a further hearing session to consider the issue. I cannot stress enough that it is imperative that you ensure your case is properly presented at that hearing.
5. My earliest availability to hold the hearing is in January 2026. Please liaise with me via my Programme Officer to agree dates and to make the other necessary arrangements. I ask that this letter is placed on the examination website as soon as possible. I am not inviting, and will not accept, any correspondence about the content of it.

Yours Sincerely

Louise Nurser

28 October 2025