MID SUSSEX DISTRICT PLAN EXAMINATION

Inspector: Jonathan Bore, MRTPI   **Programme Officer:** Pauline Butcher

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James Stevens.   29 March 2017
Home Builders Federation
HBF House,
27 Broadwall
London SE1 9PL

Dear Mr Stevens

Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2017 in which you suggest that a date or deadline should be established for a new hearing session for the Plan.

I do not know whether you have seen the most recent correspondence on the housing requirement and OAN on the Examination web page, but I would draw your attention to the letter from the Council dated 23 March 2017 (MSDC14) which proposes a way forward. It suggests that the annual requirement should be set at the OAN figure of 876 dpa and then step up later in the Plan period to 1,026 dpa. It also promises guidelines to provide a stronger strategic framework for neighbourhood planning in the future, and indicates that further technical work is being carried out on habitats issues in the light of the Wealden DC High Court judgment.

At the moment I do not consider it necessary to seek a further hearing date. In my reply of 24 March 2017 (ID21), I asked for a joint Mid Sussex / Crawley statement on the subject of Crawley's unmet needs in the light of the Council's most recent proposal. The Council will need time to respond to this and the other outstanding issues and provide an updated 5 year housing supply calculation. If sound modifications are forthcoming it may be possible to deal with all remaining matters in writing; the written representations procedure and the hearings have already presented adequate opportunities for everyone to comment on the submitted plan. The Council has recently covered a lot of ground in respect of proposed policy modifications and has said on a number of occasions that it wishes to progress the plan as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Bore

INSPECTOR