

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT PLAN EXAMINATION

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Inspector's Note

31 March 2017

Mid Sussex District Plan Examination: current position

This note explains the present status of the Examination and whether any further hearings sessions will be arranged.

On the matter of the housing requirement, the Council has accepted the OAN figure of 876 dpa. However, it has pointed to evidence indicating that unmet need from Crawley arises some way into the plan period. It therefore suggests that the housing requirement should step up to 1,026 dpa from 2024/5 (see MSDC14). This would result in a lower overall requirement than set out in my interim letter, and in my reply of 24 March 2017 (ID21), I asked for a joint Mid Sussex / Crawley statement on the implications of this approach for Crawley's unmet needs. When that is received I will consider the implications.

For most of the non-housing policies, the main modifications are close to being resolved.

On the subject of hearings, I have made it clear to participants that the Examination is primarily in writing, and that the hearings are scheduled to enable me to gain any additional information I need to come to conclusions on soundness. We have had many days of hearings and I have had full regard to all the representations, so I will not hold any further hearings or entertain further correspondence in respect of matters for which I already have adequate evidence.

At the moment the Council is carrying out the work on unmet need in the HMA, referred to above, together with the provision of a strategic framework for neighbourhood planning in the future, a calculation of the 5 year housing land supply and further technical work on habitats issues in the light of the Wealden DC High Court judgment. It has not yet issued a timescale for this work. If proposed modifications come forward that are demonstrably sound on the evidence, a further hearing will not be required. If there are continuing issues, they will be dealt with either in writing or through a hearing, depending on the extent to which I need to gain further information and test evidence. Correspondence from interested parties on the question of further hearings is unnecessary. If in due course I am satisfied that the plan can be made sound subject to modifications, I will write to the Council with a list of main modifications. The Council will carry out public consultation on the main modifications.

Jonathan Bore

INSPECTOR