



Statement of Common Ground

Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex
County Council (Highways)

January 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is a Statement of Common Ground (the 'Statement') between Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council (Highways).
- 1.2 Mid Sussex District Council has prepared the Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031 which will guide the sustainable development of Mid Sussex to 2031. The District Plan sets out a vision for how Mid Sussex will evolve and a delivery strategy for how it will be achieved.
- 1.3 This Statement supports the examination of the District Plan and provides the Inspector with an understanding of the current position of West Sussex County Council Highways in respect of the District Plan.
- 1.4 Mid Sussex District Council has worked closely with West Sussex County Council, the highway authority responsible for the local road network in Mid Sussex, to ensure that the impact of development proposed by the District Plan on the highway network are known can be properly and feasibly mitigated. This has been achieved by work culminating in the production of the Mid Sussex Transport Study and the inclusion of mitigation measures in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 1.5 Production of the Mid Sussex Transport Study has been an iterative process, reflecting the development strategy proposed by the Mid Sussex District Plan. The latest version, the Stage 3 Report, submitted as evidence to support the District Plan at Examination, reports on the transport impacts of the Mid Sussex District Plan, incorporating the Focused Amendments to the Pre-Submission Draft.

2. Mid Sussex District Plan – Consultation Draft

- 2.1 A Consultation Draft version of the District Plan was published for public consultation from 21 November 2014 to 16 January 2015.
- 2.2 West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) responded to that consultation supporting the Mid Sussex Transport Study. WSSCC noted the need to test additional scenarios should the numbers of new homes change significantly from those assumed in the study work carried out to date and that the impacts of the Science Park broad allocation (Policy DP2) needed to be examined.

3. Mid Sussex District Plan – Pre-Submission Draft

- 3.1 The Mid Sussex Transport Study - Stage 3 was commissioned in April 2015 to report on the likely transport impacts of the Pre-Submission District Plan.
- 3.2 On 12 June 2015 Mid Sussex District Council published its Pre-Submission Draft District Plan for a final period of consultation on the Plan's soundness and legal compliance. The public consultation ended on 24 July 2015.

3.3 WSCC did not comment on the Mid Sussex Transport Study in their response to this consultation.

4. Mid Sussex District Plan – Schedule of Focused Amendments to the Pre-Submission Draft

4.1 Following the publication of the Pre-Submission version of the District Plan in summer 2015, the Council consulted on a Schedule of Focused Amendments to the Plan in November 2015.

4.2 Due to the timing in starting work on the Stage 3 Study, it was not possible to examine the transport implications of the later Focused Amendments to the Pre-Submission Draft District Plan, namely an increase in the District Plan housing provision and the inclusion of a strategic development for 600 homes to the east of Pease Pottage.

4.3 A Stage 3 Interim Study reporting on the Pre-Submission District Plan was published in November 2015 and made available on the Mid Sussex District Council website noting the need for further work before the Study could be completed.

4.4 In response to the consultation, West Sussex County Council noted the need for further transport modelling to assess the deliverability of the Pre-Submission District Plan (June 2015) with the Focused Amendments modifications included. WSCC also noted that the further work being undertaken on the Mid Sussex Transport Study would enable the County Council to provide comments and conclusions in advance of the public examination.

4.5 Mid Sussex District Council continued to work with West Sussex County Council to progress the Study and contribute to the Stage 3 Report. This considers the transport impacts of the Mid Sussex District Plan, incorporating the Focused Amendments to the Pre-Submission Draft.

4.6 The Stage 3 Report was published in January 2017 following extensive consultations with West Sussex County Council and Highways England.

5. Position of Agreement

5.1 West Sussex County Council is satisfied that the Mid Sussex Transport Study represents an accurate and fit for purpose study for the testing of the strategic impact of the development strategy proposed by the Pre-Submission Draft District Plan (June 2015) including the focused amendments modifications, on the local highway network.

5.2 West Sussex County Council is satisfied that the development strategy proposed by the Pre-Submission Draft District Plan (June 2015), including the focused amendments modifications, would not have a severe residual impact on the local road network, subject to the delivery of the suggested mitigation measures proposed

by the Study. These mitigation measures are considered feasible to deliver within an appropriate timeframe subject to the further development of the mitigation measures through the planning application/design process, particularly where potential design deficiencies have been noted in respect of the outline designs. West Sussex County Council is satisfied that the Plan meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework in respect of the operation of the local highways and transport network.

6. Other matters

- 6.1 It is agreed that Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council will continue to work actively together and co-operate on matters pertaining to their shared interest and responsibilities.

7. Signatures

Signed:



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Christopher Tunnell

Position:

Interim Head of Economic Promotion and Planning

Organisation:

Mid Sussex District Council

Date:

30/01/17

Signed:



Name:

MICHAEL ELKINGTON

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STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER

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Date:

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