

For the attention of: Inspector Johnathan Bore, MRTPI
Care of: Pauline Butcher, Programme Officer
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Email: ldfprogrammeofficer@tiscali.co.uk

27 March 2017

Dear Sir

Mid Sussex Local Plan: the way forward

The HBF is the principal representative body of the housebuilding industry in England and Wales and our representations reflect the views of discussions with our membership of national and multinational plc's, through regional developers to small, local builders. Our members account for over 80% of all new housing built in England and Wales in any one year.

We have noted your interim findings published on the 20 February (ID/11). We have also noted the correspondence between you and the Council since this letter.

The interim findings have established a higher OAN for Mid Sussex plus the need to provide for an element of Crawley's unmet housing need. The situation now requires an analysis of the current evidence base and potentially new evidence to establish whether it is feasible for Mid Sussex District Council to accommodate all of the OAN plus an element of Crawley's unmet need, or at least a larger element of the newly identified housing need.

We noted that you had scheduled a hearing session for the 3 March to discuss the evidence and to attempt to agree a way forward. This session was postponed to allow the Council more time to consider the implications of your interim letter.

The HBF is anxious for Mid Sussex District Council to have an up-to-date local plan in place as soon as possible that reflects the new requirements of national planning policy. We would like to see the examination progressed so that a new plan is in place. We therefore ask whether you would consider it appropriate to establish a fresh deadline with Mid Sussex District Council to identify a date for a hearing session so that all parties can discuss the issues publicly and establish a way forward?

Yours sincerely



James Stevens, MRTPI
Director for London and the Devolved Cities

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Cc Chris Tunnell, Mid Sussex District Council