



The Planning Inspectorate

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# Report to Mid Sussex District Council

by P J Asquith MA(Hons) MA MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Date: 15 January 2020

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## Report on the Council's Annual Position Statement (APS)

The Statement was submitted to the Inspectorate on 31 July 2019

## Context

1. Paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) introduced an Annual Position Statement (APS). Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), updated in July 2019, sets out the process that local planning authorities should follow if they wish to confirm their housing land supply through an APS.
2. When assessing an APS, the Inspectorate carries out a 2-stage assessment<sup>1</sup>: Stage 1 – whether the correct process has been followed; and Stage 2 - the sufficiency of the evidence submitted.
3. The submitted APS has been assessed, on its merits, and no other material has been considered.

## Stage 1

### Does the Council have a recently adopted plan?

4. For the purposes of Framework paragraphs 73b and 74, a plan adopted between the 1 May and 31 October will be considered recently adopted until 31 October of the following year; and a plan adopted between 1 November and 30 April will be considered recently adopted until 31 October in the same year<sup>2</sup>.
5. The Mid Sussex District Plan was adopted in March 2018. In accordance with the Framework this would be considered recently adopted only until 31 October 2018. As such, the Council does not have (and did not have at the time of the publication of its APS in July 2019) a recently adopted plan.
6. This being the case, the correct process has not been followed. I have therefore not gone on to consider whether satisfactory stakeholder engagement was carried out or whether there is a sufficiency of submitted evidence to support the Council's contention that a five-year housing land supply exists.

## Conclusion

7. I am not able to confirm whether the Council has a five-year housing land supply through an assessment of the submitted APS since the correct procedure has not been followed.

*Philip Asquith*

INSPECTOR

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<sup>1</sup> PPG, ID: 68-013-20190722

<sup>2</sup> Framework, footnote 38