

Mid Sussex District Council: Site Allocations Development Plan Document **September 2020**

Statement of Common Ground – Update to Memorandum of Understanding July 2014

Parties to the Agreement

The Agreement involves the following local planning authorities:

- Mid Sussex District Council
- Chichester District Council

Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground is an update to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2014 between the Parties to the Agreement. More specifically its overall aim is to demonstrate that ongoing and appropriate engagement and co-ordination is taking place between the parties that includes planning for the identified cross-boundary strategic planning issues that exist and/or likely to arise resulting from the MSDC emerging Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Current Position

Mid Sussex District Council adopted the District Plan (2014 – 2031) in March 2018. The District Plan identified a housing requirement for the district of 16,390 dwellings up to 2031. This meets the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the district of 14,892 dwellings in full and makes provision for the agreed quantum of unmet housing need for the Northern West Sussex Housing Market Area, to be addressed within Mid Sussex, of 1,498 dwellings. The emerging Mid Sussex Sites DPD has four main aims, which are:

- To allocate sufficient housing sites to address the residual necessary to meet the identified housing requirement for the district up to 2031 in accordance with the Spatial Strategy set out in the District Plan;
- To allocate sufficient employment land to meet the residual need and in line with policy requirements set out in District Plan Policy DP1: Sustainable Economic Development;
- To allocate a site for a Science and Technology Park west of Burgess Hill in line with policy requirements set out in District Plan Policy DP1: Sustainable Economic Development, and
- To set out additional Strategic Policies necessary to deliver sustainable development.

The Site Allocations DPD policies are strategic and, once adopted, will form part of the Development Plan for the district,

The Site Allocations DPD proposes 22 housing site allocations and 7 employment site allocations to ensure that the housing and employment requirements as identified by the District Plan are met in full.

The Sites DPD has been informed by a comprehensive suite of technical evidence, including Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Strategic Planning Issues

The following strategic/ cross-boundary planning issues have been identified that relate to the Mid Sussex Site Allocations DPD and the parties:

1. Housing

The 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties identified Housing Need as a strategic planning issue. This is an indirect rather than direct strategic issue because they cross housing market area boundaries rather than the respective district boundaries.

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One of the aims of the Sites SPD is to allocate sufficient housing sites to address the residual necessary to meet the identified housing requirement for the district up to 2031 in accordance with the Spatial Strategy set out in the District Plan. District Plan policy DP4:Housing indicates that, as at 1st April 2017, there was a residual amount of 2,439 dwellings to be allocated through future Neighbourhood Plans and the Site Allocations DPD. This residual amount has been updated as at 1st April 2020, and is now 1,280 dwellings.

Policy SA11: Additional Housing Allocations of the Site Allocations DPD proposes to allocate 22 housing sites, that will deliver around 1,764 dwellings. The results in an over-supply of 484 dwellings which ensures the residual is fully met and provides a reasonable over-allocation to provide flexibility.

The parties agree that the Site Allocations DPD is seeking to allocate sufficient sites to ensure the housing requirement for Mid Sussex is met in full. The Parties agree these allocations do not raise any cross-boundary issues and offer an opportunity to make a positive contribution to delivering sustainable residential development.

Liaison

The liaison between the parties has been proportionate to the nature of the strategic issue, which is an indirect one.

Conclusion

Chichester District Council and Mid Sussex District Council agree that they have engaged on an ongoing basis throughout preparation of the Site Allocation DPD and on this basis that the Duty-to-Cooperate has been met.

Chichester District Council and Mid Sussex District Council agree that there are no areas of disagreement between the parties relating to the emerging Site Allocations DPD and to continue to work together on the areas of ongoing work discussed in this Statement of Common Ground.

Signed: Susan T. Taylor.

Signed:



Dated: 30/09/2020

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Cllr Susan Taylor
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Chichester District Council

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