

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

Statement of Consultation

Regulation 22(1)(c)

Appendix 10

Summary of Responses (Regulation 19) – Evidence Base and Policies Map

December 2020

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Sustainability Appraisal	
Number of Comments received	
Total: 33 Support: 2 Object: 30 Neutral: 1	
Comments	MSDC Response
 General comments Generally support the approach taken in the sustainability appraisal (691 – Pegasus, 738 – DMH Stallard) 	Noted
The assessment process is considered robust and it is considered that it demonstrates that the sites selected are the most appropriate for development (701 - Sunleys)	• Noted
 The assessment process has been robust, and it is considered that this demonstrate that the sites selected are the most appropriate for development (2218 - Hargreaves Management) 	Noted
The SA is silent on elderly accommodation. It failed to identify the need for specialist accommodation as a sustainability issue and therefore does not consider reasonable alternatives to address the need. (709 - Barton Willmore)	The approach to specialist accommodation for older people is detailed within Provision of specialist accommodation for the Elderly (TP4). The District Plan sets out the strategy in this respect and it is not for the Site Allocations DPD to revisit this approach.
The delivery of the eastern part of the SA37 network, linking Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill, will be a likely significant effect of a beneficial nature within Lewes District and therefore should be considered as a cross-boundary impact likely to arise from the plan. (1715 - Parker Dann)	Agreed that the proposed eastern route under policy SA37 will immediately benefit a small number of Lewes District residents living on the edge of Burgess Hill.
The SA is unduly reliant upon, and constrained by, indicative and untested settlement figures, which has led to the allocation of unsustainable sites having regard to alternatives that exist in the District. (705 - Nexus)	The Strategy for the DPD is set out the District Plan which provides the overarching development alternatives for the SA. It is not the role of the Sites DPD to re-assess the Council's housing need or establish options for it. This will be carried out within the District Plan Review.
 The impact of traffic is overlooked within the DPD which is reflected in the SA which includes a lot of uncertainty in the site assessments 	The Sites DPD is supported by robust Transport evidence that also informed conclusions of the SA.
The Sustainability Appraisal reports that the Council currently lacks data to distinguish Grade 3 from 3a agricultural land and assumes a default classification of 3 without evidence (2383 - Infrastructure First)	• Noted
 The lack of ecological information available makes it hard to assess the potential impact of any site allocations or the assessment of their suitability against the SA Objectives (748 – Sussex Wildlife Trust) 	
The SA that accompanies the Regulation 19 consultation does not refer to the latest evidence and data and is therefore not a sound basis to develop the Site Allocations against. (1987 & 2031 Wates)	As described in the SA, the most up-to-date data has been used. Older data has been used where the most up-to-date information has not yet been released.
Sustainability framework	Sustainability framework The objectives and indicators identified for the purpose of the

- The framework should be reviewed to reflect the current COVID-19 context (684, 757 - Strutt and Parker)
- The framework should include a landscape objective.

Housing - reasonable alternatives

- The SA/SEA has not considered/assessed all reasonable alternatives which suggests that the Draft SA DPD has not been positively prepared as it does not meet the objectively assessed needs of the Category 3 Settlements or is justified by not having the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives (684, 757 - Strutt and Parker)
- The SA fails to identify a reasonable alternative of no further growth at East Grinstead based on the Habitats Directive and potential impacts upon the Ashdown Forest SAC. (705 - Nexus)
- The SA fails to identify reasonable alternatives at Haywards Heath. (705 Nexus)
- The Options presented were not sufficiently different in terms of addressing the approved spatial strategy. (708 KLW)
- The SA does not assess the alternative to direct growth outside the AONB (708 - KLW)
- Concern that the Council have not rigorously considered the reasonable alternative of allocating more of, or all of, the remaining 47 sites (that meet the Council's own suitability criteria) (753 & 1443 -Lewis & Co Planning)
- It is unclear in the SA how the alternative options for housing supply were arrived at. No consideration was given to providing for anything over and above the residual housing requirement. (791 Wates)
- The SA fails to assess to reasonable alternatives. All suitable options have not been appropriately identified. (1987 & 2031 - Wates)
- The SA focusses solely on the sustainability of sites rather the considering the benefits of providing housing in different locations. (1987 & 2031 - Wates)
- It is not considered that the assessment of the housing options is a sufficient enough assessment of reasonable alternatives as required by guidance and legislation. (2065, 2067, 2079 & 2080 - Denton)

Housing - site specific comments

- SA13 is incorrectly categorised 'marginal' when assessed against the sustainability framework - the respondent provided a scoring system to show that the proposed allocated site scored better than some other site categorised as performing well (691 -Pegasus)
- The SA includes errors, omissions and inconsistencies for sites south of Folders Lane
- The site land West of Sayers Common (SHELAA ref. 857) should be considered to be a reasonable alternative (708 - KLW)
- The assessment of Land opposite Stanford Avenue, London Road, Hassocks (SHELAA ref. 221) has

- sustainability appraisal are considered to remain relevant in the current COVID-19 context.
- Landscape is included under objective 9 of the SA.

Housing - reasonable alternatives

- The process followed to arrive at the preferred housing site options is detailed in section 6 of the SA and flows from the spatial distribution set out in the District Plan which was itself subject to Sustainability Appraisal. It is not the role of the Sites DPD to re-establish the strategy.
- The SA is clear about the logical approach to establish reasonable alternatives.
- It is not the role of the Sites DPD to re-assess the Council's housing need or establish options for it. This will be carried out within the District Plan Review.

Housing - site specific comments

- Site appraisals are kept under review should any updates to site assessment in the Site Selection Paper 3: Housing arise (SSP3). However, the Council applied the same methodology to assess each site against the sustainability framework and is therefore confident that the sustainability appraisal provides a consistent assessment of reasonable housing site options.
- Alternative scorings submitted by alternative site proponents and

been excluded through the SA based on a flawed
assessment in comparison to other sites. (753 -
Lewis & Co Planning)

- There are inconsistencies in the SA in the assessment of sites in Horsted Keynes (in particular, SHELAA sites #68, #69, #184 (SA29), #216 (SA28), #807, #971). The assessments have been flawed due to incorrect assumptions being made, or wrong data being used for different aspects of the sustainability assessment. This has had a direct impact on which sites have been selected.
- The findings of the SA are supported, however the assessment of the HH Golf Course (SHELAA ref. 503) site contains inaccuracies which need to be rectified.
- The SA fails to identify measures to mitigate the impact of the proposed sites in East Grinstead and Felbridge, either alone or in combination with sites already committed in the Local Development Plan (738 – DMH Stallard)
- The site at Clearwater Farm Site (SHELAA ref. 841)
 was incorrectly discounted at the Stage 2
 assessment leading to all reasonable alternatives
 not being considered within the SA and failure to
 assess a reasonable alternative the delivery of the
 modal shift aspiration of policy SA37. (1715 Parker
 Dann)
- The Sustainability Appraisal is superficial, inaccurate in places and fails to consider all reasonable potential sites, in particular closer to Crawley – the respondent has provided suggestion to correct the SA. (2383 - Infrastructure First)
- The SA is inadequately evidenced in respect of transport and biodiversity in respect of policies SA12 and 13
- There are errors within the SA with regard to SA32, there is no GP surgery in the village (597 - Turners Hill Parish Council)

Employment

 An additional alternative should be considered for employment to allocate over and above the identified need to adopt a flexible approach given the various factors which impacts on uncertainty. (789 -Dukesfield) objectors would not be consistent with the approach used within the SA.

Employment

The reasonable alternatives for sites to meet the District Plan employment need are identified within the Site Selection paper 4: Employment (SSP4). Within the SA, sites were grouped in three categories to be assessed against the sustainability framework and were all considered for allocation at this stage. Sites were subsequently discounted due to their likely impacts on the social, environmental and economic objectives.

Habitats Regulations Assessment – General Comments				
Number of co	omments rece	eived		
Total: 3	Support:1	Object: 1	Neutral: 1	
Comments				MSDC Response
both a providi are ap	 Concur with the findings of the HRA report for both air quality and recreational pressure, providing that all required mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any future planning permissions given (710 - Natural England). 			Noted
The SDNPA and MSDC are members of the Ashdown Forest Working Group which is chaired by the SDNPA. No concerns raised regarding the proposals in the Regulation 19 consultation document and air quality impacts on the Ashdown Forest SAC. Look forward to continue working together alongside other partners of the Working Group (777 - South Downs National Park Authority).			• Notes	
Natural area developed (Individual).			HRA is a process to ensure that a plan or project being undertaken or permitted by a public body will not adversely affect the ecological integrity of a European wildlife site, in this case the Ashdown Forest SPA and SAC. Ashdown Forest is within Wealden District. None of the proposed site allocations will result in development on Ashdown Forest. Mitigation for recreational pressure in the form of SANG and SAMM will be required for the proposed housing site allocations within the 7km zone of influence.	

Polic	cies Maps	
	er of Comments Received	
Total:		
Comn	nents	MSDC comments
•	Inset 11a East Grinstead – principle of including site (land south of 61 Crawley Down Road, Felbridge in built up area is supported (ABC, 2080)	Noted
•	Inset 8a Copthorne – support amendments to include extent of development site (Terence O'Rourke, 654)	Noted
•	Inset 19 Turners Hill – objection to continued designation of the Crawley – East Grinstead Strategic gap. There is no justified policy basis (Chilmark, 1458) (Jackson Planning, 1781)	The Turners Hill Neighbourhood Plan, policy THP8 provides the policy justification for the strategic gap indicated on inset maps 19 and 19a The purpose of the key diagram is to provide
•	'Key' diagram on page 13 does not contain the strategic gap so is inconsistent with the Inset map. (Jackson Planning, 1781)	The purpose of the key diagram is to provide an overview of the allocations and not to replicate the detail of the policies map and there is no inconsistency between the two documents.
•	Inset 12a Hassocks – built up area should be amended to include Byanda, (Nexus Planning, 2001)	The Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan was made in April 2020. Some amendments to BUA were made at this time in accordance with DP6. As there has been opportunity for the parish Council to alter BUA at this location relatively recently, it is not considered appropriate to amend as part of the Site Allocations DPD.
•	Inset 2 – Ansty and Staplefield (Haywards Heath incorrectly referred to in rep. The proposals map should be amended to include the allocation to the East of Borde Hill Lane. (Woolf Bond Planning, 1454)	The Council does not agree that the omission site should be allocated and therefore no change to the policies map is required.
•	Inset 17a Scaynes Hill – built up area should be amended (DMH, 762) (DMH, 761)	No change. See Built up Area boundary Topic Paper, page 7/8 (TP2)
•	Inset 7 Burgess Hill – Seven residential properties to the east of SA12 should be included in built up area (DMH, 761)	No change. See Built up Area boundary Topic Paper, page 6 (TP2).
•	Inset 10 Cuckfield – Area to the east of SA23 should be included within built up area. (DMH, 761)	No change. See Built up Area boundary Topic Paper, page 7. (TP2)
•	Inset 3a Ardingly – Area to the east of Selsfield Road (south Cobb Lane) should be included within the built-up area. (DMH, 761)	No change. See Built up Area boundary Topic Paper, page 6 (TP2).
•	Inset 4 Ashurst Wood – Land at Yewhurst, adjacent to SA26 should be included in the built-up area. (DMH, 761)	No change. See Built up Area boundary Topic Paper, page 6 (TP2).
•	Inset 19 Turners Hill – Withypitts Farm house building to the south of SA32 should be included in the built-up area (DMH, 761)	No change. See Built up Area boundary Topic Paper, page 6 (TP2).

Infrastructure/ Infrastructure Delivery Plan					
	omments rece				
Total: 7	Support: 0	Object: 5	Neutral: 2		
Comments				MSDC Response	
 Concerns were raised in relation to the capacity of the sewerage network in the north of the District, as well as water supply in Mid Sussex. (625 - Worth Parish Council) The Local Plan should contribute to ensuring that appropriate digital infrastructure is delivered alongside new development to ensure that the local and national economy is appropriately supported. (625 - Worth Parish Council) Further development should not be proposed in areas where the water demand cannot be coped with, such as Handcross (1423 – resident; 2420 			across the District. It is acknowledged that some items may not be included for each such as digital infrastructure, however such provision is required under policy DP23 are is expected to be delivered as part of the	t site	
estima	estimated cost of police, bus infrastructure and other infrastructure within the IDP (1430 -			The IDP contains the latest information available and will be updated as and wher more information becomes available from infrastructure providers	1
Infrasi develo currer Existir	Infrastructure should be improved ahead of new development being allocated to remediate current issues (1722 - Lindfield Parish Council)			•	
- resid	lent)		` `	appropriately served by infrastructure.	
ackno accon	wledge the neamodation, suc	elivery Plan fai ed to provide fo ch as extra caro d - Barton Willr	or specialist e	 The approach to specialist accommodation for older people is detailed within the Topic Paper: Housing for Older People (TP4). 	

Community Involvement Plan	
Number of Comments Received	
Total: 5 Support: 0 Object: 1 Neutral: 4	
Comments	MSDC Response
MSDC has failed to deliver on its Statement of Community Involvement.	 As statutory consultees all Town and Parish Councils and adjacent local planning authorities were alerted to both the Regulation 18 and 19 consultations. A summary of responses to the Regulation 18 consultation was published in the Council's Statement of Consultation (August 2020) (C3). This includes Actions to Address Objections. Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the Regulations.
 Ineffective methods of communication used to alert residents and hard to reach groups of consultation. 	 Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the Regulations.
 Only a single press release in Mid Sussex Times; not distributed to Felbridge or East Grinstead. 	 Press release issued but Council has no control over which publications choose to include the article
 No mention of consultation of Council's landing page, Planning and Building' or dedicated 'Consultations' webpages. 	 All consultation documents and supporting evidence were available on the council website.
No alerts in Mid Sussex Matters magazine.	Due to timing of publication and approval of documents for consultation.
 General Felbridge Parish Council was not contacted at any point during the development of the DPD. (534 – Felbridge Parish Council). 	Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the Regulations
Tandridge District Council were not informed of Regulation 19 consultation (534 – Felbridge Parish Council)	 As statutory consultees all Town and Parish Councils and adjacent local planning authorities were alerted to both the Regulation 18 and 19 consultations. Tandridge District Council have been fully involved in the preparation of the DPD, as set out in the SoCG (DC13).
Consultation form too complicated	 Planning regulations govern the content of response for the Regulation 19 consultation.
 Community engagement virtually impossible to achieve given the knowledge needed and jargon used. 	Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the Regulations
 No feedback or explanation on why detailed objections have been ignored. 	Comments received during regulation 18 stage were fully reported to Members, via Scrutiny and Council meetings.
 Limited number of people that buy the local newspaper to see press release. 	Noted
 Email alert only effective for those that have signed up 	Noted
 Was there any promotion of consultation at libraries during Covid-19 (i.e. posters on doors)? 	 No due to limited operation of libraries during the consultation period.

- Local Development Scheme out of date (dated June 2019).
- Website has been kept up to date with changes to timetable due to Covid-19 to keep residents up to date.
 Revised LDS December 2020 however
- Revised LDS December 2020 however the Council's website has been kept up-to-date with timetable information

Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)				
Number of c	omments rece	eived		
Total: 2	Support: 0	Object:2	Neutral:0	
Comments				MSDC Response
SHLAA assessment undertaken on the blanket basis that it is C3 housing. This should be revisited (786 – Strutt and Parker)				Whilst not distinction between C2 or C3 housing is made in the SHELAA assessment. As set out in DP30: Housing Mix sites that are considered suitable for housing development would be positively suitable for older person accommodation. Therefore no need to draw a distinction in the SHELAA.
SHELAA assessments have not been corrected when notified of errors (1243 – K Griffiths, landowner)		SHELAA has been undertaken in a robust manner, all sites have been assessed in a consistent way. SHELAA has been prepared using best practice methodology and in accordance with planning guidance.		

Viability Assessment					
Number of c	omments rece	eived			
Total: 1	Support: 0	Object:1	Neutral:0		
Comments				MSDC Response	
				 A viability assessment of the sites was prepared in 2019 (IV2) prepared. It is informed by the Community Infrastructure Levy and district Plan Viability Study (2016) (IV3). As advised by the council's viability consultant: The sites DPD does not seek to introduce any new policies or a notably different range of sites to those in the District plan – therefore a more detail viability assessment is not required. 	

Transport	t Evidence			
	omments rec			
Total: 5	Support: 0	Object:4	Neutral:2	
Comments				MSDC Response
The Parish believes that the Plan has not adequately addressed the cumulative impact on local roads of the proposed developments around in East Grinstead, Crawley Down and Ardingly. (206 - West Hoathly Parish Council			 The Strategic Transport model (2020) has been prepared to inform plan preparation and ensure transport impacts are mitigated. This takes into account existing and proposed development in Mid Sussex and adjacent local authority areas The (Systra) Strategic Transport Assessment (T7) assessed the cumulative impacts and identified no remaining 'severe' impacts at any of the junctions in the vicinity of these areas. 	
the su tranq	ssary to considubsequent impa uillity for the vil n Downs Nation	acts on the cha age of Ditchlin	racter and g (777 -	 The council has worked with East Sussex as highway authority to understand any impacts on East Sussex highway network including Ditchling. This work is ongoing as set out in the SoCG with the South Downs National Park (DC11).
juncti	city studies sho ons from M23 on with A22 (62	J10 eastbound	until its	 As Set out in the supporting text to SA35 the A262/A22 is subject to a separate piece of work in partnership with West Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council.
 Junction capacity on the local road network at the Turners Hill crossroads and the Sandy Lane, Vicarage Road and Wallage lane junctions with the Turners Hill Road through Crawley down needs to be considered (625 - Worth Parish Council). 		 The (Systra) Strategic Transport Assessment (T7)) does identify junctions on the highway network that will be impacted by the Sites DPD and mitigation is required where necessary. 		
• Coun the pl studie juncti the W	cil has concerr an having cons es. Specifically ons as indicate /SP report publ Site (666 Eas	sidered the tran the capacity o d in the Systra ished on Tand	nsport f A262/A22 report and ridge Council	The (Systra) Strategic Transport Assessment (T7) has been prepared to inform plan preparation and ensure transport impacts are mitigated. The WSP report is a separate piece of work exploring strategic/ cross boundary transport matters.
has n subm the m Park	ne of regulation of been comple itting a 'holding igration of the and Safety Aud ty Council)	eted we are the pobjection'. Th Science and Te	erefore ese relate to echnology	Since the publication of the Submission plan officers have continued to work with West Sussex County Council and Highways England in relation to the outstanding highways matters. Further information can be found in TP3 Introduction to Site Allocations DPD.