

Hearing Statement on Inspector Questions

Mid Sussex Local Plan 2014-2031 Site Allocations DPD

Examination: Matter 6 Science & Technology Park, Burgess Hill

On behalf of Dacorar (Southern) Limited
& Wortleford Trading Company Limited

Report date:

May 2021

Prepared as response to ID-02:

Matter 6.3(ii)

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Matter 6 – Are the Transport, Infrastructure, Implementation and Monitoring provisions of the Plan sound?

6.3 Are there any issues arising from the development allocations of the Plan on the strategic highways network or on any locations with potential highways/ pedestrian safety issues? Can these issues be satisfactorily overcome? Several representations state that the Council’s independently commissioned highways and transport studies, which generally support the site allocations in the Plan, are flawed; in what ways are these studies flawed? Is it acceptable/good practice for the highways impact of a scheme to be considered less than severe if the existing traffic conditions in the area, which admittedly not the result of the proposed allocation, are acknowledged to be severe; in other words, should the cumulative impact be the determining factor in assessing traffic impact in relation to the impact of a specific housing allocation? Reference is made to a recent study by WSP in relation to traffic conditions in the East Grinstead area; what were the principal conclusions of this study?

(ii) Several representations state that the Council’s independently commissioned highways and transport studies, which generally support the site allocations in the Plan, are flawed; in what ways are these studies flawed?

MSDC commissioned an independent consultant to undertake strategic traffic modelling to support the Mid Sussex Transport Study (MSTS) to assess the impact of the proposed DPD on the strategic and local road networks.

As set out in the MSTS Local Model Validation Report (LMVR) (T1), the modelling is in accordance with standard good practice set out in the Department for Transport’s (DfT) WebTAG guidelines, which ensure consistency in the approach and methodology of data processing, matrices and network production, and model calibration.

The MSTS model has been used to assess the traffic impacts of the Sites DPD developments in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The assessment of the impacts is based on criteria agreed between MSDC and West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and WSCC’s interpretation of terms defining traffic impacts in the NPPF as set out in their positioning statement; specifically ‘significant amount of movement’ and ‘severe impacts’.

The MSTS modelling has been validated and accepted by both WSCC and Highways England as being robust and fit for purpose, and is consistent with national guidance and best practice.

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