

Main Modification 6 - Index by ID Number

ID	ResponseRef	Name	Organisation	On Behalf Of
710	710/1/MM6	Richard Cobb	Natural England	

710

Site Allocations DPD: Main Modifications Response

Main Modification: MM6

ID: 710
Response Ref: 710/1/MM6
Respondent: Richard Cobb
Organisation: Natural England
On Behalf Of:

From: Cobb, Richard [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2022 15:41
To: Policy Consultation
Subject: Mid Sussex District Council Site Allocations DPD: Main Modifications Consultation - 375995
Attachments: Natural England_Mid Sussex Site allocations main modifications_375995.pdf

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Dear Planning Policy Team,

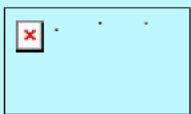
Thank you for your consultation. Please see our response attached.

Kind regards
Richard

Richard Cobb
Senior Adviser | Sustainable Development
Natural England | Sussex and Kent
www.gov.uk/natural-england

Thriving Nature
for people and planet

From: Planning Policy - Mid Sussex District Council
<planning.policy.mid.sussex.district.council@notifications.service.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 November 2021 15:00
To: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex District Council Site Allocations DPD: Main Modifications Consultation



Mid Sussex District Council – Planning Policy

29th November 2021

Site Allocations DPD: Main Modifications Consultation

Following hearing sessions held in June 2021, the Planning Inspector appointed to examine the Council's Site Allocations DPD has suggested modifications, which will now be subject to consultation.

The role of the Sites DPD is to set out how the Council plans to meet the District's outstanding housing and employment needs up to 2031. The Sites DPD recommends 22 housing and 7 employment sites at locations across Mid Sussex, plus a Science and Technology Park.

The independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State held hearing sessions in June 2021 and heard evidence from all interested parties. Following this the Inspector is suggesting a small number of modifications to the Sites DPD to ensure it meets legal and soundness requirements.

The proposed modifications are now subject to consultation which will run for 8-weeks from 29th November 2021 until 24th January 2022.

The schedule of Main Modifications and accompanying documents are available online at www.midsussex.gov.uk/SitesDPD. The website also provides details on how to respond to the consultation.

Note that comments must be focussed only on the suggested modifications, which are put forward without prejudice to the Inspector's final conclusions. All representations will be taken into account by the Inspector who will aim to provide his final report for consideration by Council early in the new year.

You are receiving this email because you are a statutory consultee, provided comments to the consultation on the document above, or have signed up to receive Planning Policy

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Date: 17 January 2022
Our ref: 375995
Your ref:



Planning Policy – Mid Sussex District Council,
Oaklands,
Oaklands Road,
Haywards Heath,
RH16 1SS

policyconsultation@midsussex.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Planning Policy Team,

Site Allocations DPD: Main Modifications Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 29th of November which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Overarching comments

We welcome the stronger policy wording for environmental and landscape protection and enhancement that has been added throughout the main modifications including:

- The changes outlined in MM1 that make the allocation more sensitive to the High Weald AONB in terms of scale and design
- The reference to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB, National Park and their settings (e.g. MM4, MM5, MM6, MM7, MM8, MM9, MM10, MM11, MM14)
- The greater emphasis on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and meeting Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) (e.g. MM13, MM14, Appendix 1: MM5)
- The retention of trees (MM20) to recognise their important contribution to urban environments in line with the NPPF.
- The strengthening of the SANG policy within MM22 regarding management and monitoring to help ensure effectiveness

Appendix 1: MM15 comments

We support the proposed addition to Site Allocations DPD Appendix B regarding biodiversity net gain which we are pleased to see addresses our Regulation 19 consultation feedback made 28th September 2020 (Our ref 324095). This is an important part of ensuring the benefits of BNG are delivered in practice. Since the Regulation 19 consultation was developed, guidance regarding BNG has advanced so we would now like to take the opportunity to advise that the following additions to this appendix table should also be made:

- All BNG indicators and targets should be monitored in line with good practice guidance from Defra/Natural England regarding BNG and the Biodiversity Metric 3.0, as appropriate. For example, the indicator 'Maximise the

biodiversity units gained' is welcome but should also ensure that appropriate habitat is created or enhanced based on the local context of the site. There should be a clear reference to relevant supplementary planning documents to ensure that wider good practice guidance is followed when delivering, reporting and monitoring BNG. We remain committed to working with the Council to develop supplementary guidance that reflects our latest advice.

- As well as a measurable BNG target (10% or higher), the appendix should reflect other requirements from the Environment Act including 1) the need for developers to submit a BNG Plan for Council approval 2) habitat sites considered as part of BNG calculations will need to be secured for at least 30 years and 3) details will need to be uploaded onto the national register once this is available to ensure there is a robust and transparent record of BNG plans and contributions.

Please see these FAQs for helpful guidance regarding BNG:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/topics/environment/biodiversity-net-gain/biodiversity-net-gain-faqs-frequently-asked-questions>

We are committed to working with the Council to help ensure the best possible outcomes for people and the environment. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Richard Cobb at Richard.cobb@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Richard Cobb
Senior Adviser
Sussex and Kent Area Team