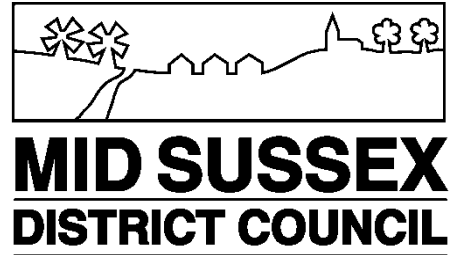


**Mid Sussex
District Council**



District Plan Review: Sustainability Appraisal

Scoping Report

November 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031 was adopted in March 2018. It sets out the long-term vision, strategic objectives and spatial strategy for those areas of the district outside the South Downs National Park (Figure 2). Recognising the shortfall supply within neighbouring authorities, Policy DP4: Housing introduced a requirement for an early review of the District Plan starting in 2021. Changing circumstance since the adoption of the Plan demonstrate the need to update the spatial strategy and strategic policies.
- 1.2. The District Plan Review will determine the overall strategy future development across the District for those areas outside the South Downs National Park (i.e. the Plan Area) to 2038 including the location of residential development to address housing need.
- 1.3. The Council is required by law to produce a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for all its local plan documents. For ease, the two processes are combined within a Sustainability Appraisal report – this combination will be referred to as ‘SA’ throughout this document.

Purpose of the report

- 1.4. This Scoping Report has been produced as the initial stage of the Sustainability Appraisal for the review of the District Plan. The intention of the report is to set out the necessary scope of the SA, including the identification of the proposed sustainability objectives that will be used to test the proposed strategy, different policy options, sites allocations and eventual draft policies.
- 1.5. The report includes the relevant baseline information and the identification of key sustainability issues that the district faces.
- 1.6. The preparation of the Scoping Report will inform the Regulation 18 Consultation version of the District Plan Review document, which will be published in early 2022. Preparing a Local Plan is an iterative process, and during each stage the preparation of the Plan an SA must be carried out.

Structure of the report

- 1.7. Section 2 summarises the purpose and progress of the District Plan Review. This section also includes an introduction to the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process.
- 1.8. Section 3 sets out how the District Plan will be influenced by other plans, programmes and policies. This section is linked to Appendix 2 which contained a review of the plans, programmes and policies of relevance to the District Plan.

- 1.9. Section 4 presents the current baseline information, setting out the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Plan Area and draws out for each topic the key sustainability issues the Plan Area faces.
- 1.10. Section 5 sets out the sustainability objectives and indicators as a basis on which to measure the effectiveness of the District Plan and options considered in its development.
- 1.11. Section 6 presents a summary of the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process and the production of the District Plan.

How to comment on this report

- 1.12. The Council is inviting the SEA statutory bodies (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and other organisations including neighbouring authorities and infrastructure providers to comment on this Scoping Report for a 5-week period.
- 1.13. You are welcome to comment or provide input on any aspect of the content or process outline in this report including the following:
 - Are there any plans, policies and programmes set out in Appendix 2 that have not been included, which are particularly relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal? Are there targets or implications that have been omitted?
 - Are there any sources of baseline data which have been omitted and should be considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal and developed in the District Plan Review?
 - Do any of the sustainability issues need to be revised? If so, please state why.
 - Are the objectives and indicators set out in the Sustainability Framework appropriate?
 - Is the proposed methodology suitable? Is the methodology clear and complete?

- 1.14. Comments can be sent to the Council:

By email: planningpolicy@midsussex.gov.uk

- 1.15. Following the consultation, any comment or feedback will be used to inform the next iteration of the Sustainability Appraisal.

2. Background and Methodology

Mid Sussex District Plan Review

- 2.1. The Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031 was adopted in March 2018. It shapes the future of Mid Sussex by providing a framework for new development, employment growth, infrastructure, and measures to protect the countryside and other valuable assets.
- 2.2. Local Planning Authorities are required to review their Local Plan every 5 years, with a subsequent update if and where necessary. However, following the Examination in Public of the District Plan and the acknowledgement of the of the shortfall in housing supply within neighbouring authorities, the Council committed to an early review the District Plan commencing in 2021 with submission to the Secretary of State in 2023.
- 2.3. Review of the District Plan policies will likely result in the following status of each policy:
 - policies that remain 'in-date' and will not require amendment;
 - policies that require minor update rather than a full review; and
 - policies that require a full review
 - new policies to supplement existing policies

What is Sustainable Development?

- 2.4. Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. It is about ensuring better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. The three key strands of sustainability and therefore sustainable development are:
 - Social
 - Environmental
 - Economic
- 2.5. In order to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, members of the United National have agreed to pursue the 17 Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030 (Appendix 1). They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, peace and injustice, to maximise social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.

Sustainability and the National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.6. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2021, superseding the previous 2019 version.

- 2.7. The NPPF states the Government's intentions with regard to sustainable development, in particular the need for the planning system to perform a number of overarching objectives:
- **An economic objective** - to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
 - **A social objective** - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - **An environmental objective** - to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 2.8. Paragraph 9 of the NPPF states that these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and application of policies within the NPPF, and that planning policies should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions. Paragraph 10 confirms that the heart of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- 2.9. The NPPF is accompanied by Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), updated regularly. This provides more detail on how to implement the policy within the NPPF. Included within this is guidance on how to undertake Sustainability Appraisal and/or Strategic Environmental Assessment, which will be followed throughout this process.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.10. The commitment to achievement of sustainable development was set out in legislation introduced at both European and national level. In 2004, the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (known as the SEA Directive) was implemented in the UK, as was the Planning Compulsory Act. These pieces of legislation respectively set out the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of plans, such as the District Plan Review.
- 2.11. The SA aims to predict and assess the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans. It is a process for understanding

whether policies, strategies or plans promote and achieve sustainable development, and for improving them to deliver more sustainable outcomes.

- 2.12. The SEA aims to predict and assess the environmental effect that are likely to arise from plans, policies and strategies. It is a process for assessing and mitigating the likely environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes.
- 2.13. For the purpose of undertaking the SA and SEA of the District Plan Review, the SEA process has been incorporated into the SA process. Therefore, where this report solely refers to the SA, it can be assumed that this also means the SEA.

Undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.14. Undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) is a five-stage process, as outlined in the [SEA Guidance](#) and [Planning Practice Guidance](#).

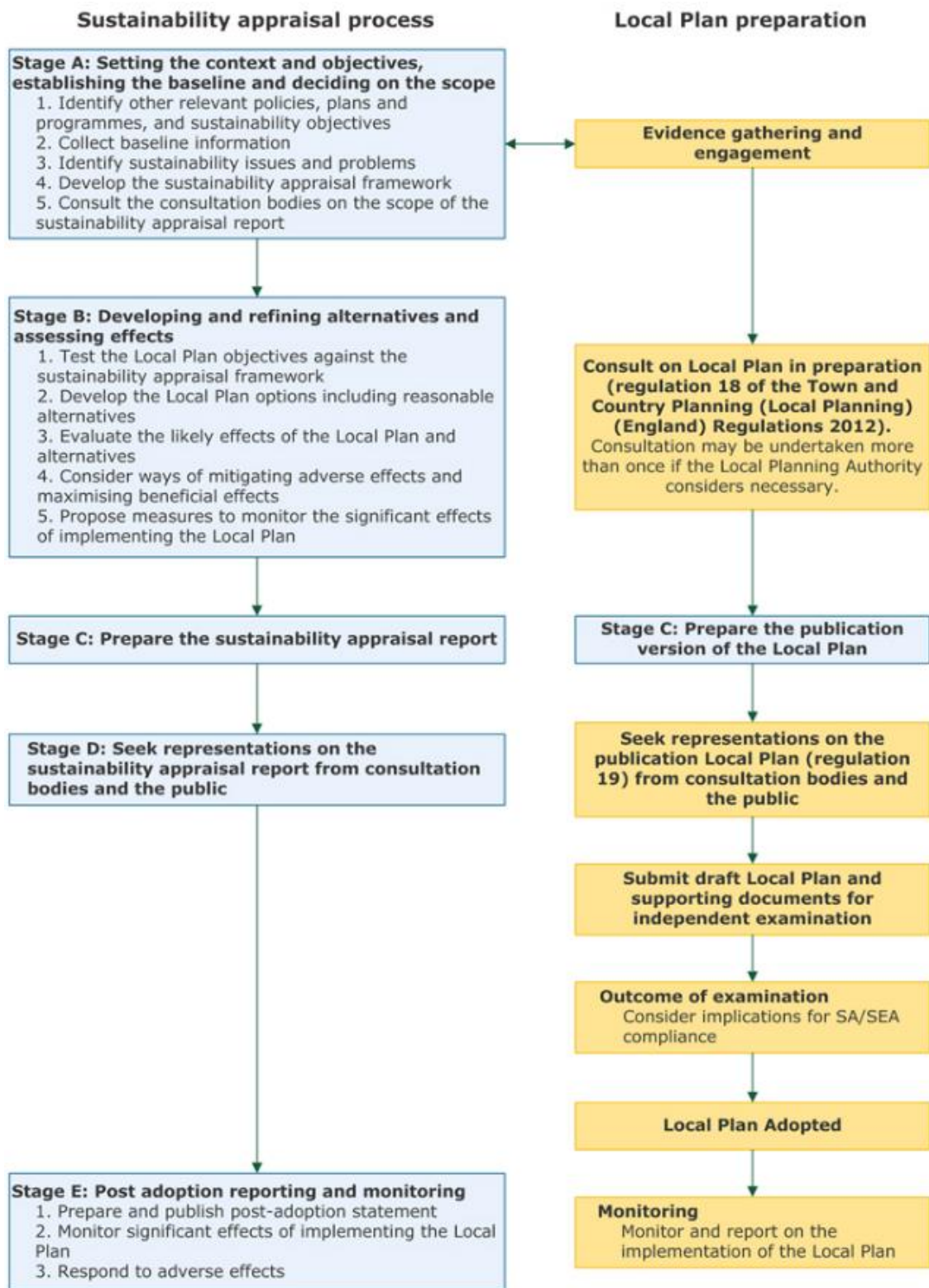


Figure 1 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process

Methodology

Stage A

- 2.15. This Scoping Report is the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process and documents the tasks required to be undertaken at this stage. Following a 5-week consultation on the Scoping Report with statutory environmental bodies, further stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process will be published in due course, to accompany the draft District Plan Review (regulation 18 stage).
- 2.16. This Scoping Report outlines the baseline for the district – in other words, what the situation is now. It will determine the current issues related to sustainability and develop a set of Sustainability Objectives to help address these issues.

Stage B, C, D

- 2.17. Stages B, C and D of the Sustainability Appraisal process will be documented during the next stage, within the draft Sustainability Appraisal Report which will accompany the draft District Plan Review, and subject to the same consultation arrangements.
- 2.18. The draft Sustainability Appraisal Report will build upon the evidence and Sustainability Objectives that have been identified within the Scoping Report (Stage A). Responses to the consultation on the Scoping Report will be taken into account – it is most likely that these comments will relate to the baseline (Section 4) and the Sustainability Objectives (Section 5) and any relevant updates to these sections will be reported in the next stage report.
- 2.19. A range of options/alternatives will be drawn up for the overall plan strategy, development sites and each policy in the plan. All reasonable alternatives will be considered, and will be ‘appraised’ against the Sustainability Objectives using the following notation:

++	Significant positive impact on the sustainability objective
+	Positive impact on the sustainability objective
?	Uncertain or unknown impact on the sustainability objective
0	No impact or neutral impact on the sustainability objective
-	Negative impact on the sustainability objective
--	Significant negative impact on the sustainability objective

- 2.20. The scoring system (using a range between ‘++’ and ‘--’) is consistent with other Sustainability Appraisals undertaken by the District Council and is suggested as an appropriate method to take in the SEA guidance. The symbol chosen depicts the predicted impact/effect each realistic option will have on each sustainability objective and to what extent, accompanied with explanatory text as justification. It will evaluate any cross-boundary impacts

(i.e. impacts outside Mid Sussex district) and suggest mitigation where necessary.

- 2.21. The main objective of appraising different options or alternatives is to assess the impact of each option with regards to sustainability, highlighting which of the options performs the best over social, environmental and economic aspects. The option that has the most positive impact on the sustainability objectives should then be chosen as the option to be included within the District Plan Review, unless robust evidence indicates otherwise. This ensures that the plan on the whole is the most sustainable plan, given all reasonable alternatives and will therefore contribute to sustainable development.

Consultation and Implementation

- 2.22. An important part of the Sustainability Appraisal process is consultation with Statutory Environmental Bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency), wider statutory consultees (as defined in the Council’s adopted Statement of Community Involvement) and members of the community.
- 2.23. The minimum requirement at Scoping Report stage (i.e this report) is to consult with the Statutory Environmental Bodies for a 5-week period. The nature and content of Scoping Reports are relatively limited. The next report in the SA process (regulation 18 stage) will set out the responses made during consultation, and how the Council has responded to them, i.e. how the responses have influenced future stages of the SA process.
- 2.24. The SEA Directive makes a number of requirements regarding consultation on the report. The table below shows where these requirements have or will be met in the future.

Table 1 Where the SEA Consultation Requirements are met

The SEA Directive’s Requirements	Where / When this will be Undertaken
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report	Undertaken through this Scoping Report, subject to consultation.
Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme	The draft Sustainability Appraisal report, which incorporates an Environmental Report, will undergo the same consultation arrangements as the consultation draft Site Allocations DPD. This will be in accordance with the District Council’s adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country	Not applicable.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making	The draft Sustainability Appraisal report will be consulted upon alongside the consultation draft Site Allocations DPD. The comments received for both documents during this consultation period will be used to inform the Site Allocations DPD to be submitted for examination.
When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed: The plan or programme as adopted A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme The measures decided concerning monitoring	Not applicable yet, these requirements will need to be considered and acted upon when the Site Allocations DPD is adopted.
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation	Not applicable yet, the significant effects of the Site Allocations DPD will be monitored when adopted.

3. Plans, Programmes, Policies, Strategies, Guidance and Initiatives

- 3.1. In order to establish a clear scope for the Sustainability Appraisal, it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the plans, programmes, policies, strategies, guidance and initiatives (PPPSGs) that are of relevance to the District Plan review. This enables the District Plan to be read in context, so that any inconsistencies or constraints placed upon the plan by other plans can be understood. In addition, the content of the PPPSGs has also been used to inform some of the key sustainability issues facing the Plan Area and in turn, the Sustainability objectives of this SA Report.
- 3.2. The review also highlights many useful sources of evidence – for example, the District Council’s Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment which can help to build a picture of the current baseline situation in Mid Sussex with respect to sustainability.
- 3.3. The PPPSGs identifies range from documents produced at an international level, right down to those produced locally. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list, however as many of the PPPSGs as possible that could influence the development District Plan are listed. The relevant PPPSGs are listed in Appendix 2.

4. Baseline and Sustainability Issues

- 4.1. This chapter presents the current baseline information, setting out the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Plan Area (Figure 2). For each topic, the sustainability issues have been identified considering both the review of the Plans, Programmes, Policies Strategies, Guidance and Initiatives (PPPSGIs) identified under section 3 and the analysis of the baseline position.

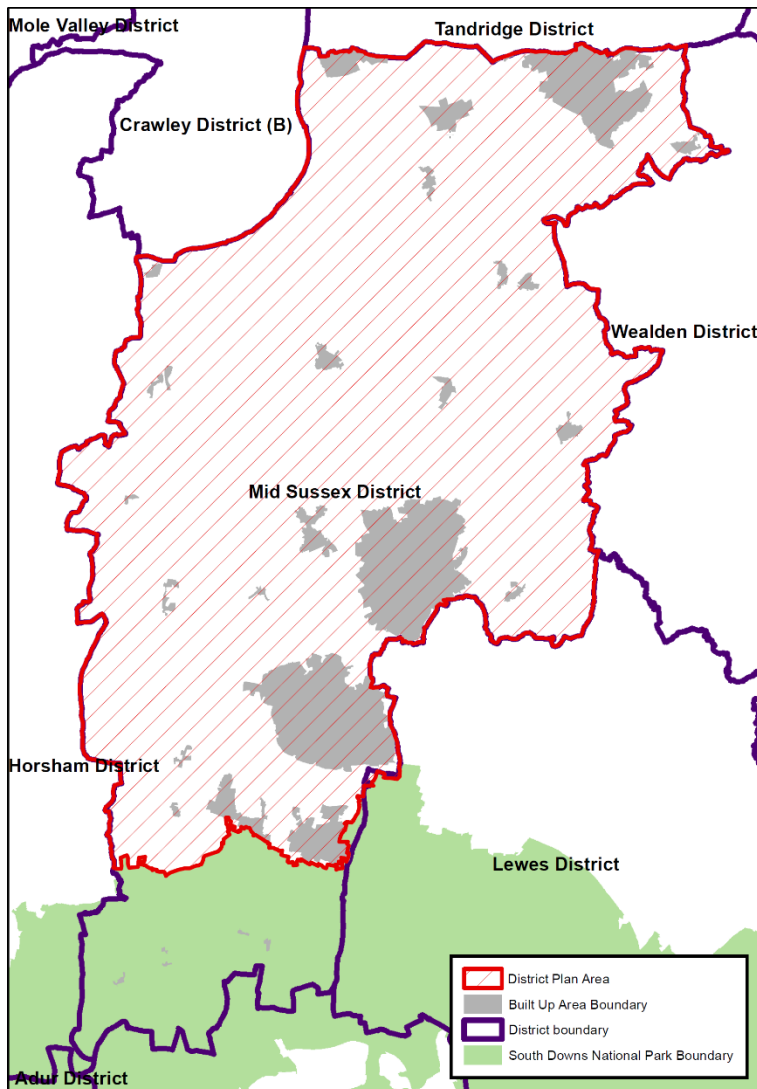


Figure 2 Plan Area

Difficulties in collecting data/data limitations

- 4.2. One of the difficulties/limitations encountered during the production of this document concerned the collection of the data for the Plan Area. Data collected at district level include those areas of the district within the South Downs National Park Authority, which was formed in 2001. It should be noted that less than 1% of the district's population lives within the National Park and therefore it is not thought that it would have a significant impact of the presentation of the portrait of the Plan Area.

- 4.3. Data is sometimes collected at other levels. However, it is not always possible and therefore baseline information had to be reported for the entire district. Therefore, unless stated, where referring to the district it does mean the whole Mid Sussex District (including the National Park area) as opposed to the Plan Area which excludes areas within the National Park.
- 4.4. Most data can be collected at ward-level and parish-level. All areas within the South Downs National Park are within wards that overlap the Plan Area boundary with the main population centre being located within the Plan Area. Therefore, it is not possible to disaggregate the data between the Plan Area and the National Park by using ward-level data. The use of parish data is considered more appropriate.
- 4.5. It must also be noted that certain assumptions had to be made when collecting baseline data for the Plan Area as it must be appreciated that the National Park boundary does not follow the exact ward boundaries. Therefore, to overcome this, the district's parishes were apportioned between the Plan Area and the National Park with those parishes that straddles the National Park boundary attributed to the sub-area where the main population centre within that ward is located.
- 4.6. As a consequence, for the purpose of collecting data for the Plan Area, where possible, the data from the following parishes was excluded:
- Fulking
 - Newtimber
 - Poynings
 - Pycombe
- 4.7. In creating the portrait of the district, the Council has attempted to use as up-to-date information as possible. Some figures have been sourced from Census data. Census 2021 was held in March 2021 and therefore data will be used as it is released in the next iteration of the Sustainability Appraisal. However, some of the lower level data sets (i.e. parish level) which are required to split the figures between the National Park and the Plan Area may not be available until later. Therefore, 2011 Census data will continue to be used in some instances and may not be as precise in representing the current state of the Plan Area of the district, however will be reviewed as the plan progresses.
- 4.8. In some event obtaining updated data required further engagement with organisations. Areas where more up-to-date data has been sought by the Council will be highlighted and future iteration of the Sustainability Appraisal will be updated accordingly.

Baseline information and sustainability issues

- 4.9. Mid Sussex District is located in South-East England within the County of West Sussex. The District is bordered by Wealden and Lewes to the east (within East Sussex County), Brighton and Hove to the South, Crawley and Horsham to the west and Tandridge to the North (in Surrey County).
- 4.10. The District covers approximately 128 square miles (approximately 334 square kilometres) and is largely rural. There are three main towns – Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead – as well as twenty-five villages and other smaller hamlets.

Air quality

- 4.11. In general, air quality in Mid Sussex is good. There is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the District in Hassocks, designated due to levels of nitrogen dioxide being above the target at Stonepound Crossroads. The main reasons for the crossroads being affected by air pollution are the volumes of road traffic and the stop/start routine of driving conditions at peak times caused by the queuing traffic at the traffic lights. The area is on the brow of a hill and is partly lined with trees. An Air Quality Action Plan was consulted upon and published in 2013 to identify actions to improve air quality. An annual progress report is published in order to monitor and report on this area.

Sustainability Issue 1: Mid Sussex District has one AQMA in Hassocks, where additional development has potential to exacerbate air quality.

Biodiversity and green infrastructure

There are a variety of nature conservation sites within the District (

- 4.12. Table 2 and Figure 3) which are important for biodiversity. In 2019/20, 92.9% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) units in Mid Sussex have been found to be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable but recovering' condition. The District is also important for species identified in the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which are also subject to protection under British and European legislation. Species include the great crested newt, dormice, nesting birds, badgers and bats.
- 4.13. Mid Sussex is the tenth most wooded district in the South East and two-thirds of this woodland is classified as 'ancient', according to the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Mid Sussex (2007).

Table 2 Nature Conservation Sites in Mid Sussex (Source: MSDC mapping)

Designation	Description	Number of Sites within the District	Coverage of the District (Ha)	Coverage of the District (%)
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest – a national designation for nature conservation or geological value	13	639.7 Ha	1.9%
SNCI/ LWS	Site of nature Conservation Importance – local designation for flora and fauna interest and value	50	1,094 Ha	3.3%
LNR	Local Nature Reserve – local designation for wildlife or geological importance	6	158 Ha	0.5%
Ancient Woodland	Areas of continuous woodland cover since 1600AD	1443	5,282 Ha	15.81%

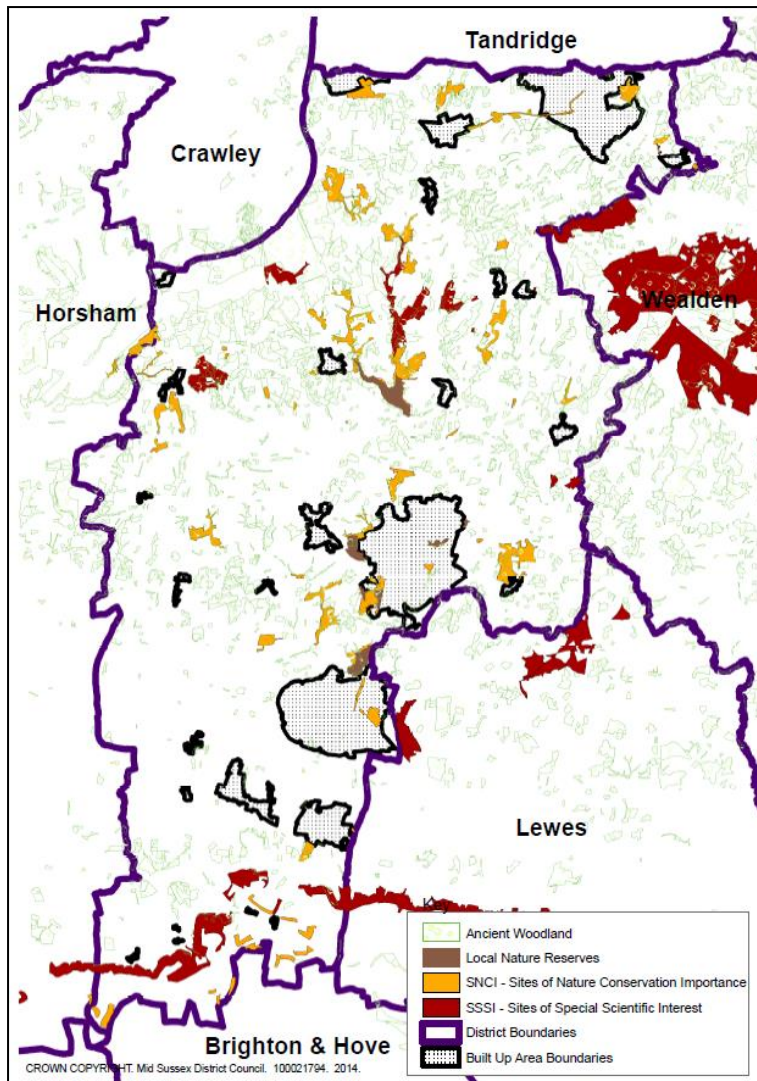


Figure 3 Nature Conservation Sites in Mid Sussex

Sustainability Issue 2: There are numerous sites protected for their biodiversity value across the district which need to be conserved and enhanced.

Sustainability Issue 3: Although designated sites represent the most valued habitats in the plan area, the overall ecological network is also important for biodiversity as a whole and helps to support the health of designated sites, allowing species to migrate in response to climate change. The fragmentation and erosion of habitats and the wider ecological network is a threat to biodiversity.

Sustainability Issue 4: There is a high pressure to deliver growth in the district and biodiversity net loss need to be halted

Ashtown Forest SPA/SAC

- 4.14. The Natura 2000 network consists of sites across Europe designated for their nature conservation importance. It aims to be an ecologically coherent network of designated sites that protect threatened species and habitats.

The Natura 2000 network is formed of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for species, plants and habitats (designated under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) for bird species (classified under the Birds Directive).

- 4.15. There are no European-designated or Ramsar sites within the District, but the Ashdown Forest SPA/ SAC lies adjacent to the north-east boundary of Mid Sussex and within Wealden District.
- 4.16. The Ashdown Forest SPA was classified in 1996. It is a 3,200Ha site comprising predominantly of lowland heathland and woodland. The Ashdown Forest SPA is an internationally important habitat classified because of the presence of breeding populations of Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* and European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*. It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 4.17. The Ashdown Forest SAC was designated in 2005 and covers 2,700Ha. It has a different boundary to the SPA, but the two designations overlap. The qualifying features for the designation are the Annex I habitats: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and European dry heaths, and the Annex II species: Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. It is also part of the SSSI.
- 4.18. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), any proposed plan (including the District Plan Review) that may affect a European site must first undergo an assessment to look at its potential impacts. This is to determine if the plan will adversely affect the integrity of the European site(s) concerned (the Ashdown Forest SPA/ SAC).
- 4.19. The potential effects of development on the Ashdown Forest will be assessed during the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the District Plan Review.
- 4.20. Currently, in accordance with District Plan Policy DP17, mitigation measures are necessary to counteract the effects of potential increasing recreational pressure and are required for developments proposing a net increase in dwellings within a 7km zone of influence around the Ashdown Forest SPA.
- 4.21. The Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) mitigation approach set out in Policy DP17 aligns with the strategic solution for recreational disturbance on the Ashdown Forest SPA. This strategic solution is supported by Natural England and ensures the requirements of the Habitats Regulations are met with regard to the in combination effects of increased recreational pressure on the Ashdown Forest SPA arising from new residential development. The strategic solution is a partnership approach between the following local authorities and is supported by Natural England: Lewes, Sevenoaks, Mid

Sussex, Tandridge and Wealden District Councils, and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

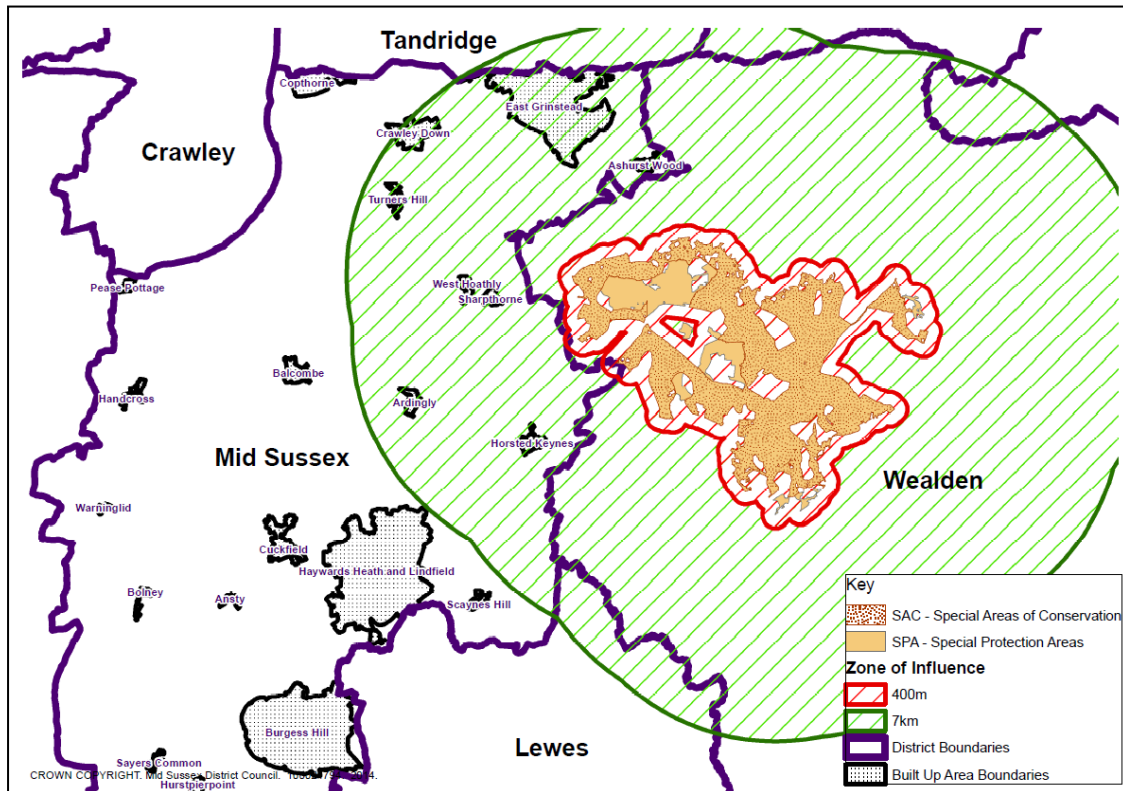


Figure 4 Ashdown Forest Spatial Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation, plus zone of influence

Sustainability Issue 5: Large areas protected for species and habitat value come under pressure from increased recreational and tourist activity

Climate change adaptation and flood risk

- 4.22. The Met Office has released the UK Climate Projections 2018 study (UKCP18), which provides up to date information on how the climate of the UK is expected to change in the period to the end of the 21st Century. In the highest emissions scenario, summer temperatures in the UK could be 5.4°C warmer by 2070 than the average summer between 1981 and 2000. Average summer rainfall would fall by 47% in this scenario. Winters could be up to 4.2°C warmer, with up to 25% more rainfall by 2070.
- 4.23. Changes to the climate will bring new challenges to Mid Sussex District's natural environments. Hotter, drier summers may have adverse health impacts and may exacerbate the adverse environmental effects of air and water pollution. Warmer, wetter winters could lead to more frequent and severe flooding events, both from watercourses breaching their banks and from surface water run-off and rising groundwater.

- 4.24. There are areas of high and medium flood risk associated with the rivers in the district – River Ouse, River Adur and Herrings Stream. The Council’s Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has identified that approximately 9km² of the District (2.7% of the total land area) is at a high risk of flooding (Figure 5). Additionally, approximately 1.6km² of the District is affected by drainage problems, groundwater flooding and overland flows. Parts of Mid Sussex are also at a high risk of flooding from surface water. The SFRA (2015) shows that the areas at risk of flooding are likely to increase as a result of climate change.
- 4.25. The SFRA mapping is a ‘live’ document which is updated with new flood events as they arise. It includes areas that have flooded historically, as well as the recently published Flood Map for Surface Water which accompanies the National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA).

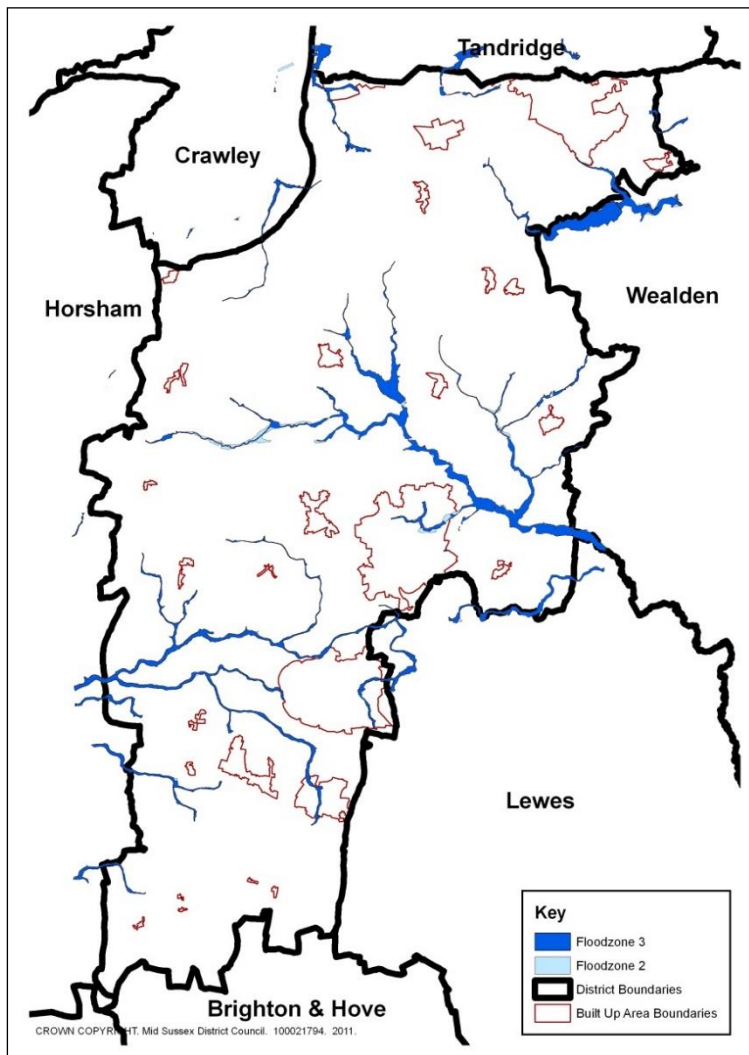


Figure 5 Areas within an Environmental Agency defined Flood Risk Zone (2 or 3)

Sustainability Issue 6: Climate change may lead to more frequent and extreme weather events which is likely to result in more severe and widespread flooding from a variety of sources including surface water.

Sustainability Issue 7: The areas at risk of flooding are likely to increase in the future as a result of climate change.

Climate change mitigation and energy

4.26. Fuel consumption in Mid Sussex has reduced by 9.5% between 2005 and 2018 (Figure 6). This is lower than West Sussex where it has reduced by 13.3%, the South East by 15.8% and England by 16.9% during the same period.

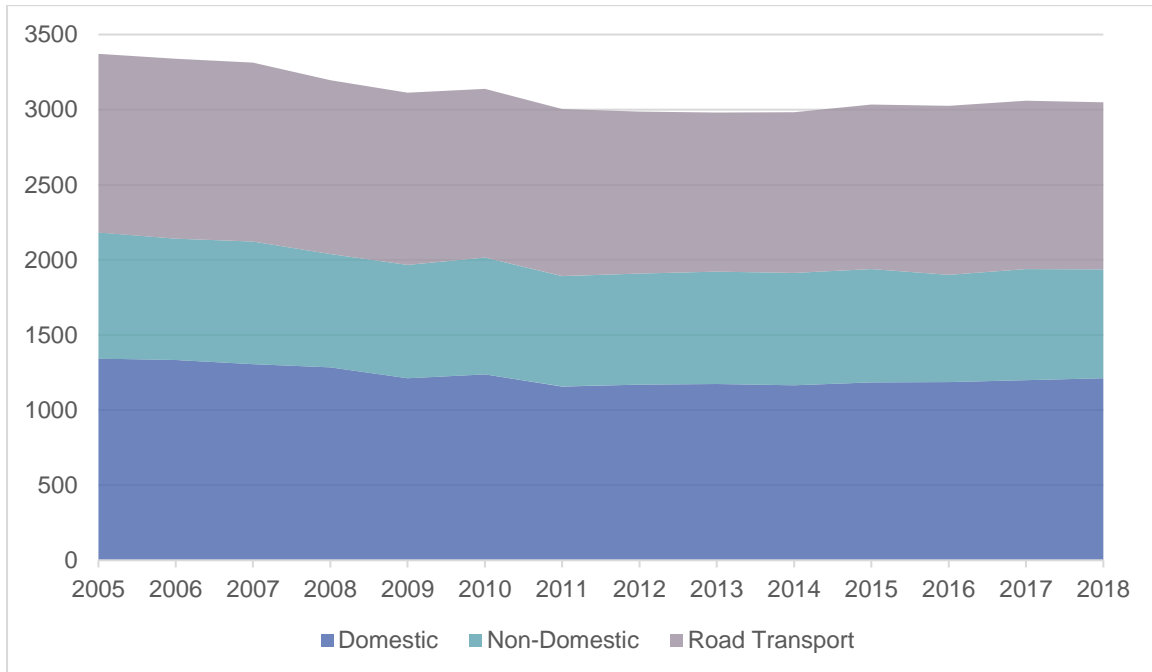


Figure 6 Fuel Consumption by sector 2005-2018 in Mid Sussex (Gigawatt-hours) (Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2020)

4.27. At 2018, petroleum is the largest fuel consumed in Mid Sussex (43%) largely associated with road transport (36%). Gas and electricity account for 33% and 16.7%, respectively. Within the domestic sector, approximately 64% of fuel consumed is gas and 21% is electricity. The consumption of electricity and gas is comparable in the non-domestic sector (Figure 7).

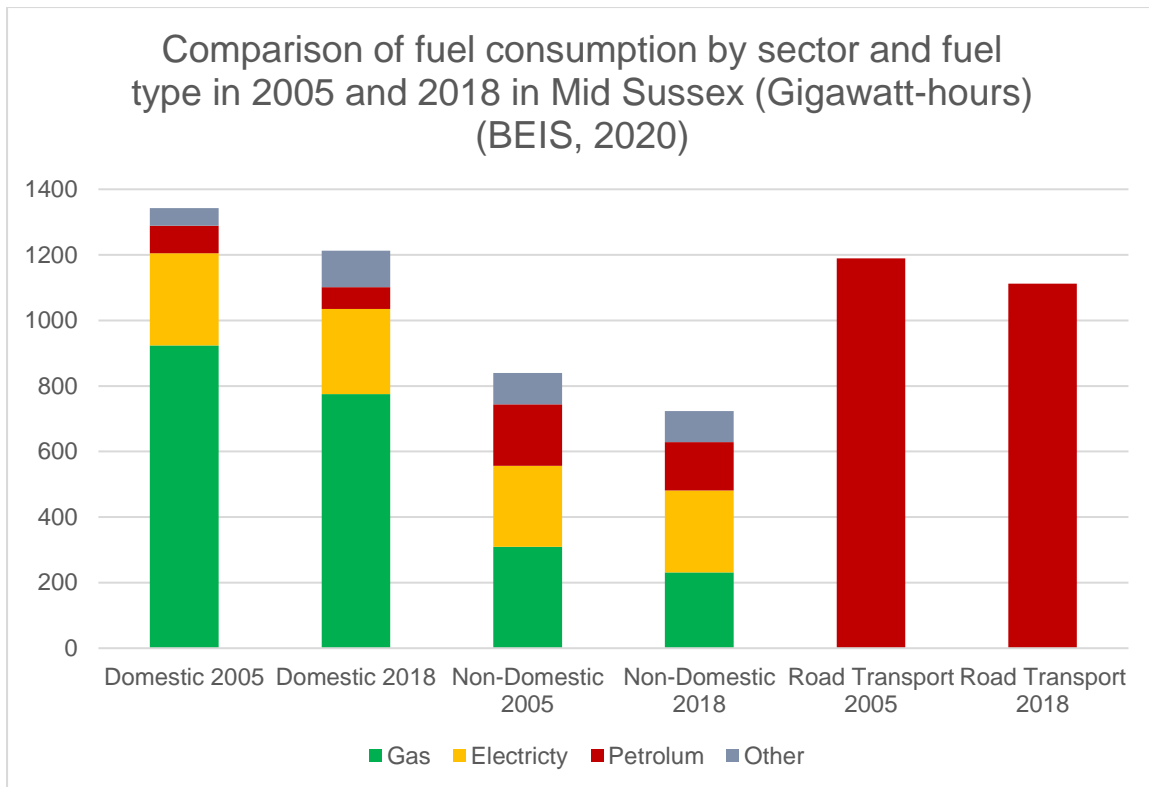


Figure 7 Comparison of fuel consumption by sector and fuel type in 2005 and 2018 in Mid Sussex (Gigawatt-hours) (Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2020)

- 4.28. Per capita CO₂ emissions in Mid Sussex were 4.2 tonnes in 2018 with 1.5 tonnes from domestic sources. This is equivalent to the per capital average for West Sussex County and lower than the South East at 4.7 tonnes and England at 5.0 tonnes respectively.
- 4.29. CO₂ emissions have reduced by 38% in Mid Sussex between 2005 and 2018 (Figure 8). This is comparable to West Sussex, the South East and England with a reduction of around 41%.

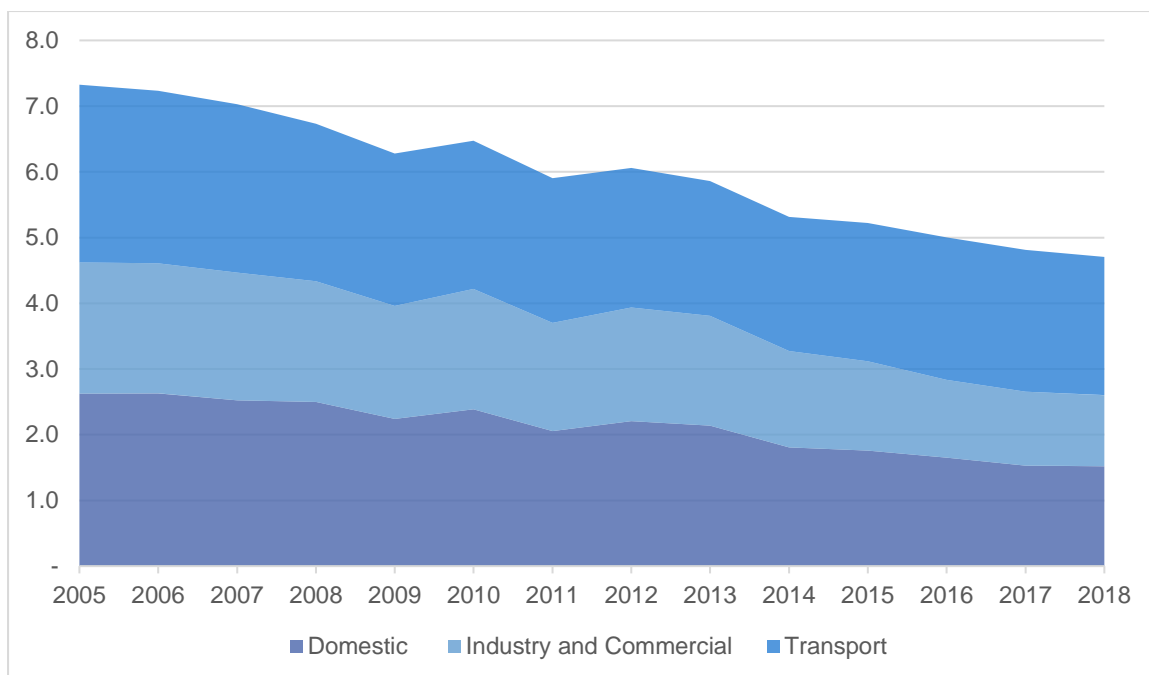


Figure 8 CO2 emissions estimates 2005-2018 in Mid Sussex (tonnes per capita) (Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2020)

4.30. The Sustainable Energy Study (2014) assessed different renewable energy sources in order to gauge the potential and possible yield. This also took into account landscape sensitivity and constraints. For instance, the potential wind resource in Mid Sussex for medium-scale turbines, when taking infrastructure, wind speeds, designations and landscape sensitivity into account, is 7.5MW (this would be greater if these issues were not taken into account).

4.31. As at end of 2019, the following renewable energy installations were present in the District:

Table 3 Renewable Energy installations and capacity in Mid Sussex District (Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2020)

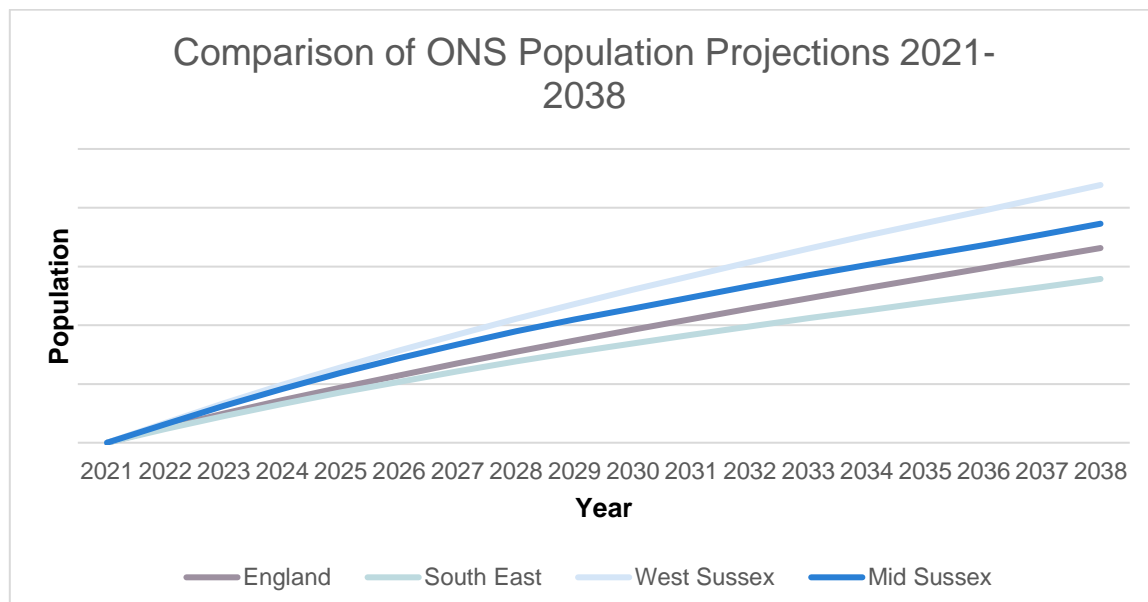
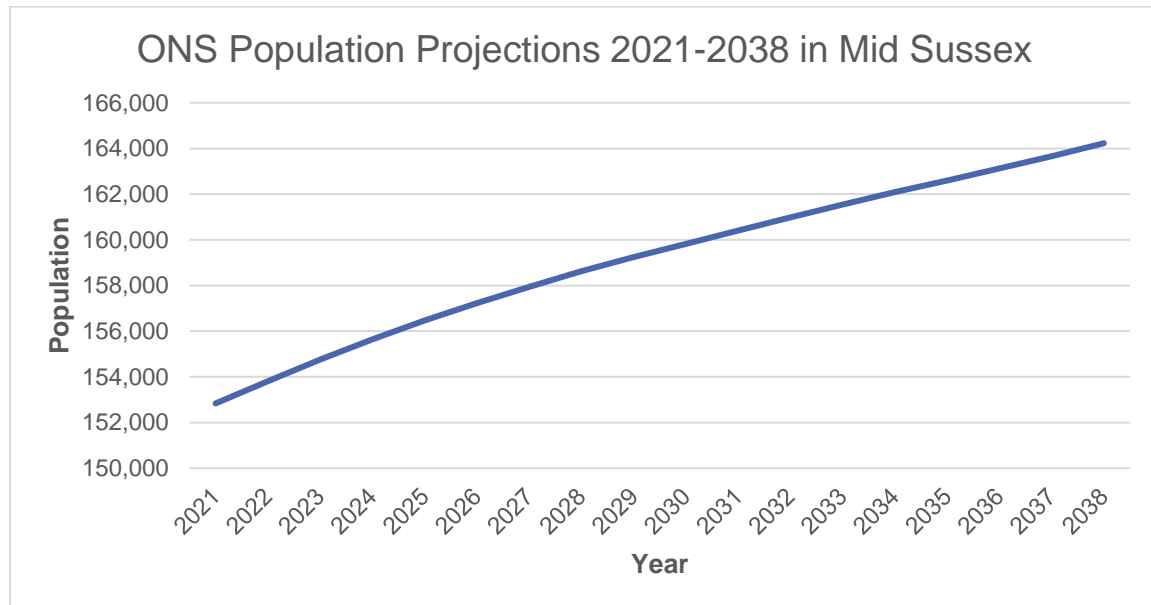
Type	Number	Installed capacity (MW)
Photovoltaics	2,132	19.6
Onshore Wind	5	-
Hydro	-	-
Anaerobic Digestion	-	-
Sewage Gas	1	0.8
Landfill Gas	-	-
Municipal Waste	-	-
Biomass	-	-
Total	2,138	20.4

Sustainability Issue 8: While carbon emissions from all sectors have fallen since 2005, Mid Sussex District’s emissions are still above the national, regional and county average, with little progress on transport emissions.

Community and wellbeing (including equalities and health)

Human Characteristics

- 4.32. The latest statistics found that in 2020 Mid Sussex had a population of 151,785 people, with 92,178 (60.7%) residents aged 16-64.
- 4.33. Trend-based population projections (ONS 2020) suggest that the population will increase by a further 7.4% between 2021 and 2038 (the District Plan period)



- 4.34. Although the population in Mid Sussex is projected to increase by 7.4% over this time, the working age population (16-64) is projected to increase by only

1.5% from 2021 to 2038. The working age population of Mid Sussex will account for 57.2% by the end of the Plan Period. This is comparable to the trend in West Sussex where the population is predicted to grow by 8.7% with a similar increase in working age population. Population in the South East and England is predicted to rise by 5.5% and 6.6% with an increase of 0.07% and 1.8% of the working age population.

- 4.35. The population in Mid Sussex is ageing and this trend is expected to continue over the plan period. The age group 65+ is predicted to increase by 34% during the Plan Period. This pattern is not specific to Mid Sussex, as life expectancy at birth and at age 65 is increasing nationally.

Sustainability Issue 9: Mid Sussex has an increasing, ageing and changing population.

Diversity

- 4.36. The 2011 Census found that ethnic minorities constituted around 4.9% of Mid Sussex District population, which is lower than West Sussex (6.2%) and the rest of the South East (9.3%). The largest minority group in Mid Sussex were Asian/Asian British made by 2.7% of the population, followed by the mixed/multiple ethnic groups at 1.4%.

Health

- 4.37. Health is a cross-cutting topic as many topic areas explored in this Scoping Report can influence health either directly or indirectly. Overall, the health of residents in Mid Sussex is generally good; in 2011 85% reported their health as 'Good' or 'Very Good'. This compares to 81% of people in the South East.
- 4.38. 14.2% of people in Mid Sussex had a limiting long-term illness. This is lower than the West Sussex figure of 17%, the South East figure of 15.7% and the England figure of 17.6%, which also indicates a relatively good standard of health in Mid Sussex (Census, 2011).
- 4.39. The Council will engage with the West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group through the District Plan Review process to ensure that there is sufficient health capacity to support development proposals.
- 4.40. In terms of access to Health facilities, 82.2% of households are within a 15 minute walk (approximately 1.2km) from a GP Surgery, Health Centre or Hospital (Figure 9). This figure is largely swayed by the proportion of households close to facilities within the three towns, and there are large rural areas of the District that are not within a reasonable walking distance from health facilities.

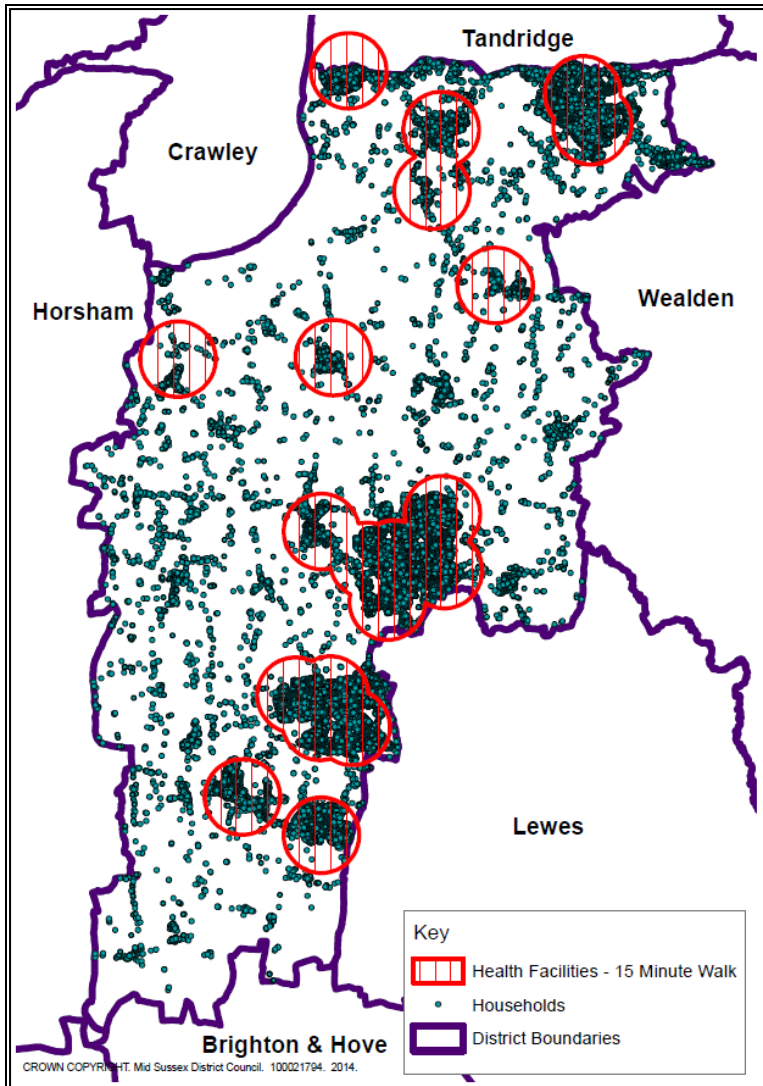


Figure 9 Access to Health Facilities

Sustainability Issue 10: Mid Sussex has an ageing population, which has the potential to result in pressure on the capacity of local services and facilities, such as GP surgeries, hospitals and social care.

Sustainability Issue 11: The delivery of new homes to address housing need in Mid Sussex will result in pressure on the capacity of local services and facilities including health facilities.

Sustainability Issue 12: Whilst residents in Mid Sussex are generally in good health, it is key for the Council to continue to ensure that future development make a positive contribution to residents' health and well-being

Sustainability Issue 13: Ease of access to health facilities is unequal across the district, with limited provision within the rural areas of the district.

Education

4.41. In Mid Sussex, there are 42 primary schools and 7 secondary schools serving the District. The Council will engage with West Sussex County

Council through the District Plan Review process to ensure that there is sufficient school capacity to support development proposal.

- 4.42. In 2011, 14.8% of the District's population had no qualifications, which is less than the average for the South East (19.1%) and for Great Britain (22.5%). More people in Mid Sussex were educated to NVQ Level 4 and above (33.6%) than the average for the South East (29.9%) and Great Britain (27.4%) (ONS, 2010 and 2011).
- 4.43. In terms of primary school provision, the County Council Pupil Forecasting work (Planning School Places, 2021) deems an area full when it is operating over 95% capacity. Schools in the Burgess Hill planning area are currently at 93% capacity, East Grinstead planning area (including Ashurst Wood, Copthorne, Crawley Down, Turners Hill and West Hoathly) at 95% capacity, and Haywards Heath planning area (including Balcombe, Bolney, Cuckfield, Lindfield, Twineham, Warninglid) at 94% capacity. The Hassocks planning area, which includes Albourne, is at 83% capacity. New Primary Schools are identified as part of the Northern Arc development at Burgess Hill and Clayton Mills (Hassocks) strategic site; these will increase capacity in these areas.
- 4.44. In terms of secondary school provision, the Burgess Hill planning area is at 95% capacity, the East Grinstead area at 99%, the Hassocks area at 100% and the Haywards Heath area at 93%.
- 4.45. In terms of access to education, 89.8% of households within Mid Sussex are within a 15 minute walk (approximately 1.2km) from a primary school, and 64.9% of households are within 20 minute walk from a secondary school (Figure 10). This figure is largely swayed by the proportion of households close to schools within the three towns, and there are large rural areas of the District that are not within a reasonable walking distance from educational facilities.

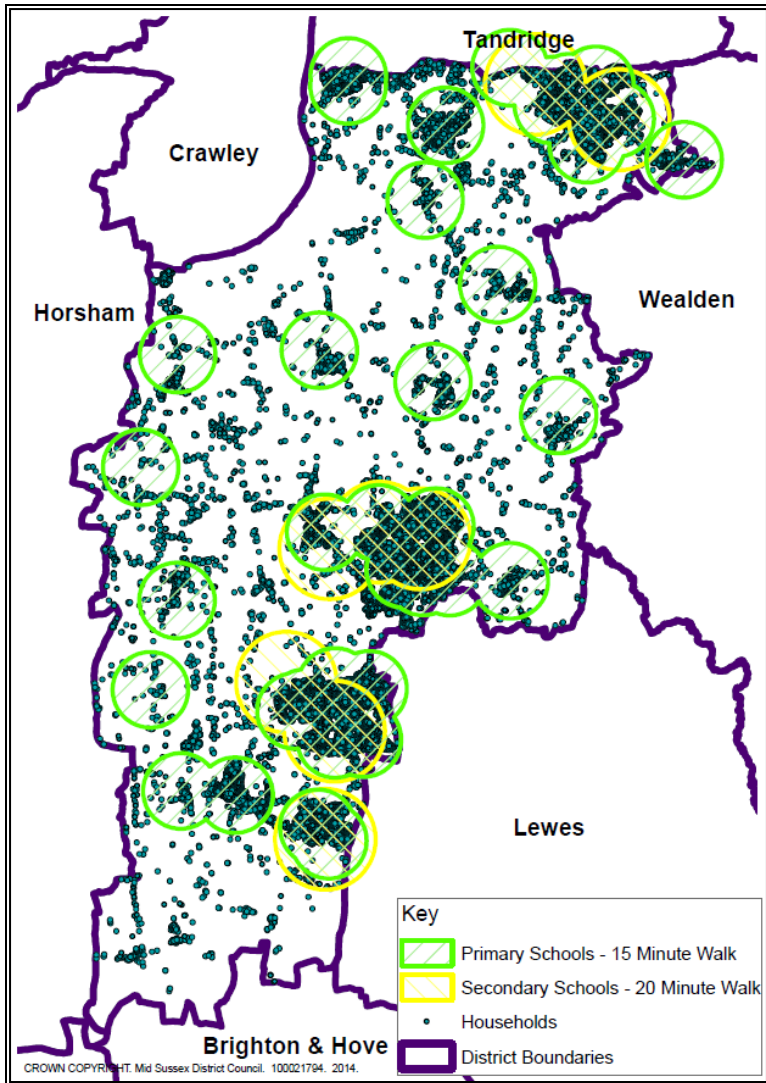


Figure 10 Access to Education Facilities

Sustainability Issue 14: The delivery of new homes to address housing need in Mid Sussex will result in pressure on the education facilities capacity.

Sustainability Issue 15: Ease of access to education facilities is unequal across the district, with reduced provision within the rural areas of the district.

Crime

- 4.46. Mid Sussex is generally a safe place to live with low levels of crime with only 36.98 crimes per 1000 residents in 2012/13 (Sussex Police).
- 4.47. Sussex Police have Crime Prevention Design Advisors who champion a scheme called 'Secured by Design' and provide advice on crime prevention. The 'Secured by Design' scheme combines 'designing out crime' with enhanced security to reduce crime and create safe and sustainable communities. The aim of 'designing out crime' is to reduce the vulnerability of people, property and businesses to crime as well as reducing the fear of

crime. This is through designing the built environment so that opportunities for crime are removed. This includes addressing access and movement, surveillance, defensible space, and lighting.

Sustainability Issue 16: Although crime levels are low within the district, opportunities for crime need to be further reduced

Leisure and Recreation

4.48. Studies taken in 2018 of both amenities greenspace and sport pitches provision found that there have been improvements in the deficiencies of outdoor provision in terms of quality and quantity, particularly in artificial pitches, play and skatepark areas but that there are, however, deficiencies in most areas and new residential development is likely to increase demand and further burden current provision. Facilities maintained by Mid Sussex District Council include:

- 3 leisure centres
- 20 parks
- 3 bowling greens
- 5 skate parks
- 26 senior, 23 junior and 18 mini soccer football sites
- 5 rugby pitches
- 3 cricket pitches
- 15 tennis court sites
- Over 130 equipped playgrounds
- 2 allotment sites

4.49. There is a wide range of sport and recreation facilities across the District including health and fitness clubs, sports halls, swimming pools, golf courses, synthetic turf pitches, grass pitches and bowls facilities. There are leisure centres in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Hassocks and Haywards Heath offering a range of sporting activities. Additional outdoor recreation facilities are provided by Town and Parish Councils.

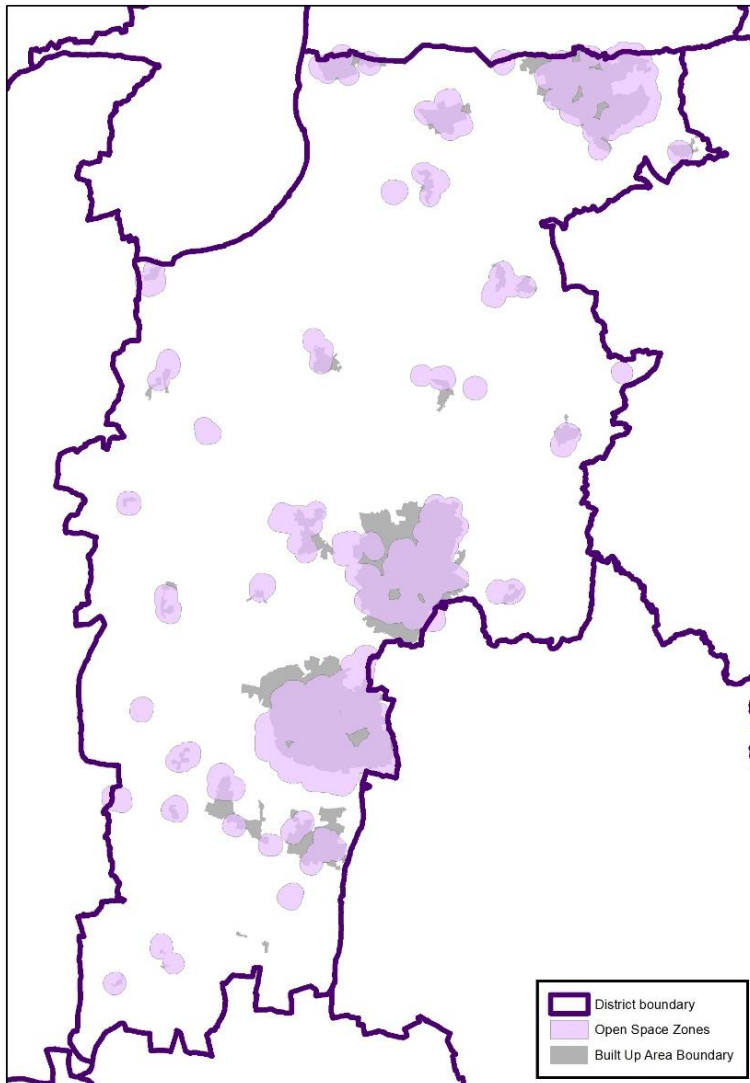


Figure 11 Access to Open Space

4.50. The District Plan Review, alongside other relevant plans, seeks to ensure that there are sufficient indoor and outdoor leisure activities and premises to cater for both residents and visitor requirements in the future. The Sport England Active People survey demonstrates that Mid Sussex has a comparatively high level of club membership and sports participation. It is likely that demand for leisure facilities will increase in the future, so it is important that this demand is met.

Sustainability Issue 17: Whilst residents in Mid Sussex are generally in good health, it is key for the Council to ensure ease of access for regular physical activity for its residents.

Economy and employment

4.51. Mid Sussex District is well-connected to the strategic road and rail networks between London and the south coast. Gatwick Airport is close by in the neighbouring borough of Crawley. This has meant that the local economy is

influenced by these factors as well as being within commuting distance from London and the south coast. The District's location attracts businesses resulting in a healthy and vibrant economy, and as at 2019, there are 7,360 PAYE/VAT registered businesses (UK Business Counts) providing around 61,000 jobs (BRES).

- 4.52. Just over half (54.18%) of the workforce both live and work in the District and around 45.6% of the total workforce of Mid Sussex work outside of the District (Census 2011). The relatively high level of out-commuting is an issue in terms of sustainability – this can lead to overcrowded trains and congestion on the road network. It also means that many of the District's highly qualified workforce are not using their skills within Mid Sussex-based businesses. After Mid Sussex, the most common places for residents to work are Crawley, Brighton and Hove, Westminster and the City of London and Tandridge (Census 2011).

Sustainability Issue 18: There is a high level of out commuting for work in Mid Sussex which put pressure on the transport network.

Employment sectors

- 4.53. In 2019, the residents of Mid Sussex were predominantly employed in:

- Health, 8,000 (13.1%)
- Education, 7,000 (11.5%)
- Retail, 6,000 (9.8%)
- Professional, scientific and technical, 5,000 (8.2%)
- Wholesale, 4,500 (7.4%)
- Accommodation and food service, 4,500 (7.4%)
- Business Administration and support services, 4,500 (7.4%)
- Manufacturing, 4,000 (6.6%)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation, 4,000 (6.6%)

- 4.54. For the year ending December 2020, 9.0% of working age residents were self-employed, representing 14.9% of employed residents against 12.4% in 2011. The increase in broadband availability within the District is likely to have encouraged more people to have set up business from home, or work from home.

Sustainability Issue 19: There is a variety of employment need across the district which can be challenging to accommodate for locally.

Sustainability Issue 20: Distribution of services throughout Mid Sussex varies significantly, especially when comparing towns and villages. The variation in the level of infrastructure available, such as broadband connexion or access, in places may impact the ability to support economic development.

Economic Activity Rate

- 4.55. The economic activity rate is the percentage of people who are in work or are seeking work. Of those aged 16-64, 84.4% are economically active, which compares to 81.6% for the South East (ONS Annual Population Survey, 2020). However, as outlined earlier in this report, although the population in Mid Sussex is projected to increase by 7.4% over this time, the working age population (16-64) is projected to increase by only 1.5% from 2021 to 2038. The working age population of Mid Sussex will account for 57.2% by the end of the Plan Period.

Employment rate

- 4.56. Mid Sussex has an employment rate of 81.7%; this is higher than the regional average of 78.3% (ONS Annual Population Survey, 2020). This suggests that there is a strong labour market in Mid Sussex.
- 4.57. The unemployment rate is 2.6% in Mid Sussex, which is lower than the average figure for the South East of 3.9% (ONS 2020). The claimant count rate (i.e. the number of people claiming Universal Credit) is 2.9% (2,405) of the working age population, which is lower than the South East average of 4.3% (ONS July 2021). In March 2020 prior to the first Covid-19 lockdown, the claimant count in Mid Sussex was 990. By May, it had risen to 3,430 and remained above 3,000 until May 2021.

Business Activity

- 4.58. There were 7,390 VAT/PAYE registered businesses in Mid Sussex in 2020, of which 6,680 (or more than 90%) employ fewer than ten people, including 5,905 that employ fewer than five. The number of enterprises has increased by 18% since 2010.
- 4.59. There were 835 enterprise births in 2019, 10.3 for every 10,000 residents aged over 16, slightly below the rate for West Sussex but well below the 13.2 recorded across England as a whole. 815 businesses ceased trading over the same period growing the stock of businesses in the district for a sixth successive year (ONS 2020).

Earning

- 4.60. In 2020, the average gross weekly pay for full-time workers who live in the District was £617.50. This is lower than the average for the South East (£631.80) but higher than the average for Great Britain (£587.10). This fell to £574.20 for people working full-time in the district.

Sustainability Issue 21: Businesses based within the district pay less than those based outside the district.

Retail

The 2016 Retail Study Update found that:

- For **convenience goods** - there is no District-wide capacity for new (foodstore format) retail floorspace over the study period, as any expenditure growth will largely be taken up by the Waitrose store permitted as part of the station redevelopment in Haywards Heath
 - For **comparison goods** - there is no short to medium term capacity (up to 2025) as a result of planned new comparison retail floorspace, particularly relating to new retail schemes in Haywards Heath (e.g. station redevelopment) and Burgess Hill (e.g. The Martlets redevelopment). However capacity emerges towards the end of the forecast period in 2029 for 5,781m² net, and is forecast to increase to 8,643m² by 2031.
- 4.61. A new retail study and health check is being commissioned. The assessment will be available in early 2022 and the findings will be included in the future iteration of the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.62. Footfall in Mid Sussex's three main towns stood at 3.4m in January 2020. By June it had fallen by 44% to less than 2.0m before recovering between lockdowns to 2.8m in October before falling back below 2.0m in January 2021. In March 2021, footfall in the three towns had recovered to 2.6m.

Sustainability Issue 22: There has been a change in shopping consumer patterns which has been exacerbated by the covid-19 pandemic.

Tourism

- 4.63. Tourism plays an important role in Mid Sussex and 9% of jobs in the District are tourism-related. There are a variety of attractions in Mid Sussex including gardens, historic buildings, windmills, a steam railway, museums, farms and nature reserves as well as numerous local events. Between 2017 and 2019 there were 181,000 trips per year to Mid Sussex for tourist purposes, with a total tourist spend of £19m (Visit England – Great British Tourism Survey 2020).
- 4.64. An average of 402,000 nights per year were spent in Mid Sussex by overnight visitors.

Historic environment

Heritage assets

- 4.65. The towns and villages of Mid Sussex are attractive, and the historic environment is of a high quality. This helps to shape the areas unique character and identity. Within Mid Sussex District, there are:

- 36 Conservation Areas, designated for their special architectural or historic interest
- 1,064 Listed Buildings, of which 18 are of the highest grade (Grade I) which are considered to be of exceptional importance.
- 10 Registered Parks and Gardens
- 25 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, predominantly within the South Downs National Park
- Over 1,100 reported archaeological sites and find-spots

Heritage assets at risk

- 4.66. Historic England has a Heritage at Risk register which includes historic buildings, sites and conservation areas at risk of being lost through neglect, deterioration or decay. The register aims to highlight those places and building in greatest need of repair.
- 4.67. The following heritage at risk are included on the register in Mid Sussex:
- The Fairfield's Conservation Area (Burgess Hill)
 - The Parish Church of Holly Trinity Listed Building (Grade I) (Church Street, Cuckfield)
 - The Motte and bailey castle 240m east of Dean's Mill Schedule Monument (Lindfield Rural)

Sustainability Issue 23: There are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in the plan area. In the context of significant pressure for development, these assets and their landscape settings may be at risk from adverse effects from poorly located or designed development.

Housing

Housing

Living Standards

- 4.68. Mid Sussex benefits from a high standard of living. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019, Mid Sussex is one of the least deprived local authorities in the country; it ranks as 311 out of 317. Whilst this indicates that Mid Sussex is not a deprived area, the district has a lower (more deprived) score on barriers to housing and services.

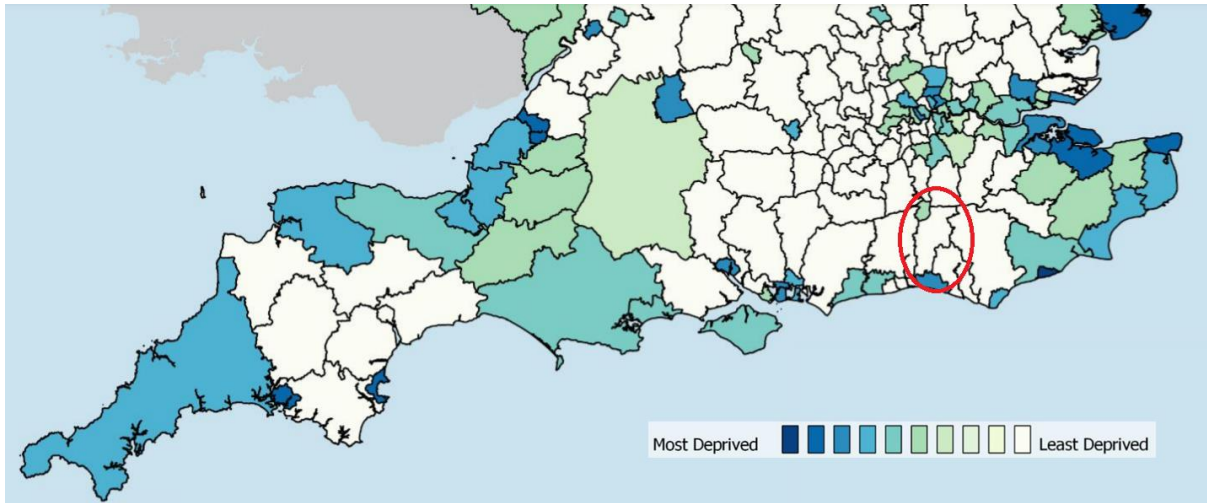


Figure 12 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (The English Indices of Deprivation 2019, ONS/MHDCLG)

House prices

- 4.69. As Mid Sussex has a high standard of living and is an attractive place to live, there is a greater demand for housing, and this has an impact on house prices. The median house price in Mid Sussex is £375,000 (ONS, September 2020) which compares to £327,500 for the South East region. This figure is comparable to neighbouring Horsham and Brighton and Hove but significantly higher than Crawley (£295,000), Lewes (£320,000), Wealden (£325,000). House prices in Tandridge (£440,000) are higher than in Mid Sussex.
- 4.70. House prices in Mid Sussex have increased by around 51% in the last 10 years, compared to 46% in the South East.
- 4.71. The ratio of lower quartile house price to workplace earning is currently 12.72 which is higher than the county, regional and national ratio (ONS, 2020) (. At the time of the District Plan examination, where the ratio was comparable, it was concluded that there should be an increase in housebuilding above demographic trends to increase supply with the intention to improve affordability.

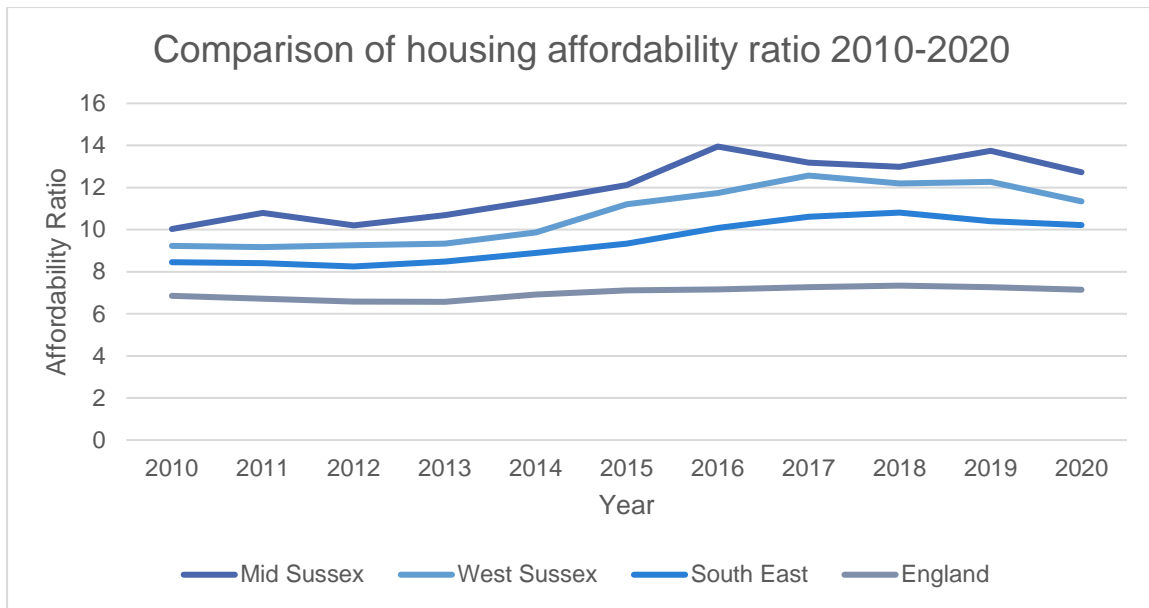


Figure 13 Comparison of ratio of lower quartile house price to workplace earning between 2010 and 2020

Sustainability Issue 24: The attractiveness of the area directly impacts on house prices which are high in Mid Sussex, leading to affordability issues.

Housing Stock

4.72. A suitable mix and tenure of housing is important to ensure all housing needs are catered for within the District. The housing stock in Mid Sussex is predominantly larger detached and semi-detached properties. This type of housing accounts for 60% of the housing stock in the three towns.

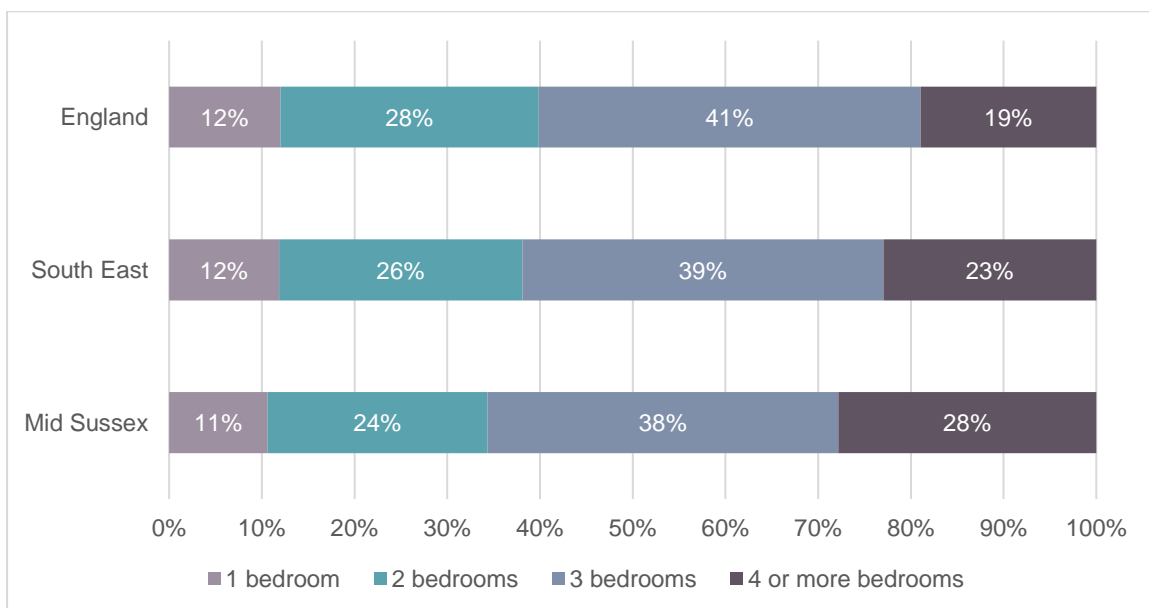


Figure 14 Housing stock by number of bedrooms (Census 2011)

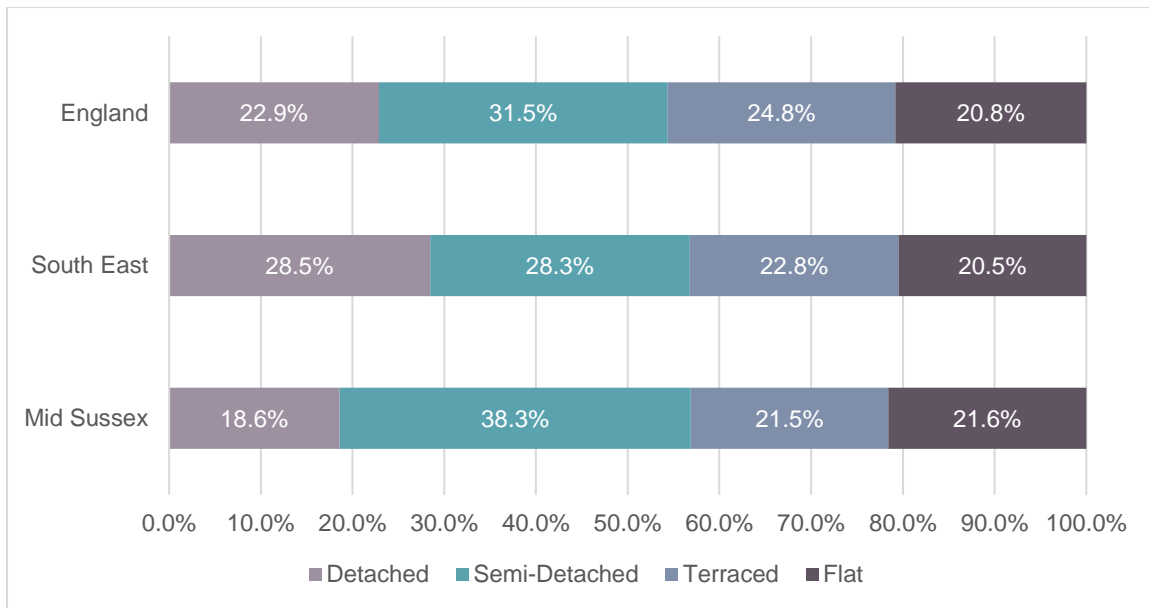


Figure 15 Housing Stock by type (Census 2011)

4.73. The majority of the housing stock in the District is in private sector ownership compared to the South East and England.

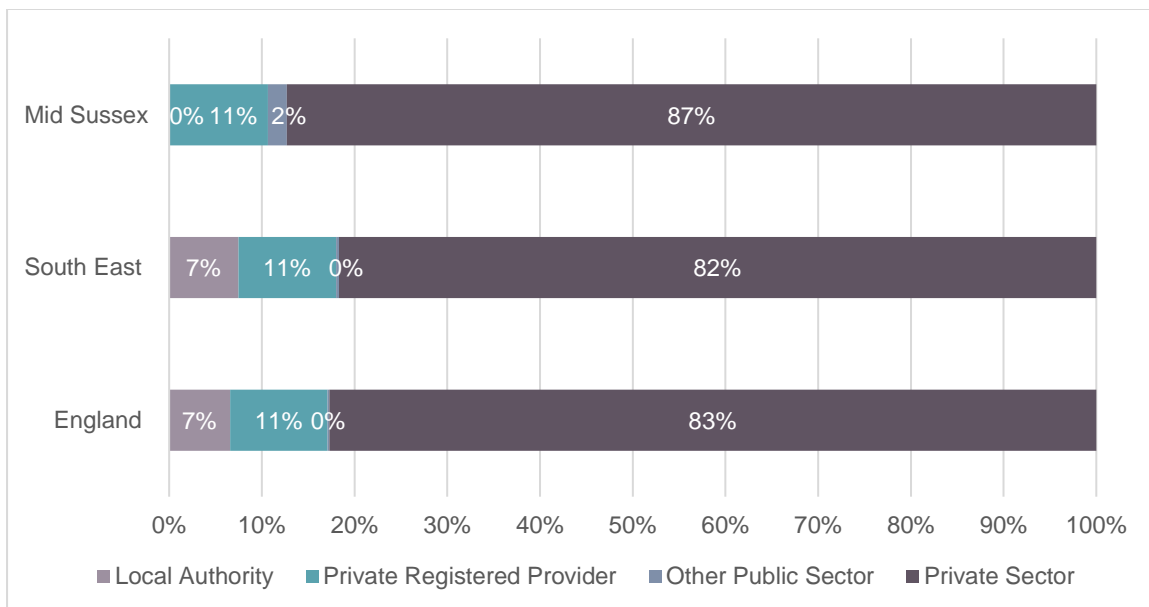


Figure 16 Tenure profile (MHCLG, 2019)

4.74. Within the private sector, there is limited reliable local data available on the split between owner occupied housing and private renting. The 2011 Census showed:

- Levels of home ownership in Mid Sussex were higher than comparator areas (76%), compared to the South East (69%) and England (65%).
- In Mid Sussex, 18% of the dwellings were in the private rented sector. This compares to 20% in the South East and 21% in England.

- 4.75. As mentioned previously, the District has an ageing population. As a consequence, there is an increased need for suitable older persons' accommodation.
- 4.76. There are 26 permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Mid Sussex across 5 sites. Further planning obligations have been secured through recent permissions for additional provision with financial contributions for the equivalent of 8 pitches and the delivery of 13 additional pitches as part of the Northern Arc development in Burgess Hill.

Sustainability Issue 25: The housing stock in Mid Sussex is largely dominated by larger detached or semi-detached properties owner occupied.

Sustainability Issue 26: Mid Sussex has an ageing population which requires a mixture of housing that will meet the needs for older people, whilst also freeing up houses for younger residents.

Households

- 4.77. There were 51,969 households in Mid Sussex in 2001, and 57,409 in 2011, an average increase of 544 households per year. There were 64,455 dwellings in Mid Sussex in 2019. The increasing population locally and nationally is a key factor in the growing number of households.
- 4.78. The District Plan examination concluded that Mid Sussex has a housing need (Objectively Assessed Need) of 876 dwellings per annum. There is also a significant unmet need from neighbouring authorities, particularly Crawley who are within the same Housing Market Area, and Brighton and Hove and other authorities within the Coastal West Sussex Housing Market Area. As a consequence, the District Plan includes a housing requirement of 876dpa until 2023/2024, and an increase to 1,090 until 2030/31 to account for the unmet need with the Northern West Sussex Housing Market Area. This averages at 964dpa over the full plan period, which is likely to increase with the implications of the District Plan Review.
- 4.79. The implications for population growth and demography for Mid Sussex is assessed under '[Human Characteristics](#)' above.
- 4.80. The average number of new houses built within Mid Sussex since the last Census in 2011 is 784 per year, and 861 per year since the beginning of the District Plan period.

Table 4 Housing Completions (net) in Mid Sussex

Within District Plan period									
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/2021
522	749	536	630	868	912	843	661	1003	1116

Sustainability Issue 27: An increasing number of households

Affordable Housing

4.81. Since the beginning of the District Plan period, there have been 1168 new affordable homes built across the District at an average of 166 affordable homes per annum with a low of 97 (2017/18) and a high of 245 (2020/21).

Table 5 Affordable Housing Completions

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of affordable homes	221	113	176	97	102	214	245
Proportion of total homes delivered	35%	13%	19.3%	11.5%	15.4%	21.3%	21.9%

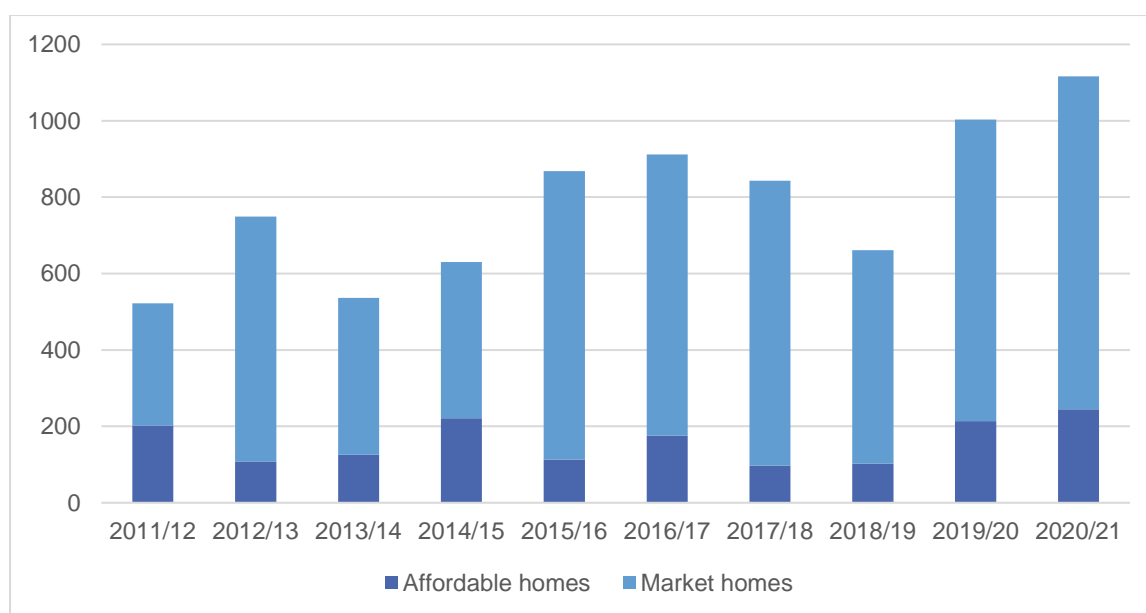


Figure 17 Split between affordable and market homes delivery

4.82. It should be noted that the provision of the proportion of affordable homes delivered in relation to the overall number of housing completions is purely indicative. More importantly, it does not mean that the Council is not achieving the affordable homes thresholds set out in policy. Indeed, the requirement to deliver 30% on-site affordable housing only applies to schemes providing 11 dwellings or more or have a maximum combined floorspace of less than a 1000sqm. In respect of residential development in the High Weald AONB, development of 6-10 units are also required to make a financial contribution equal to 30% on-site affordable housing.

4.83. Despite consistent delivery of new affordable homes, demand remains high with a significant increase in the last 2 years.

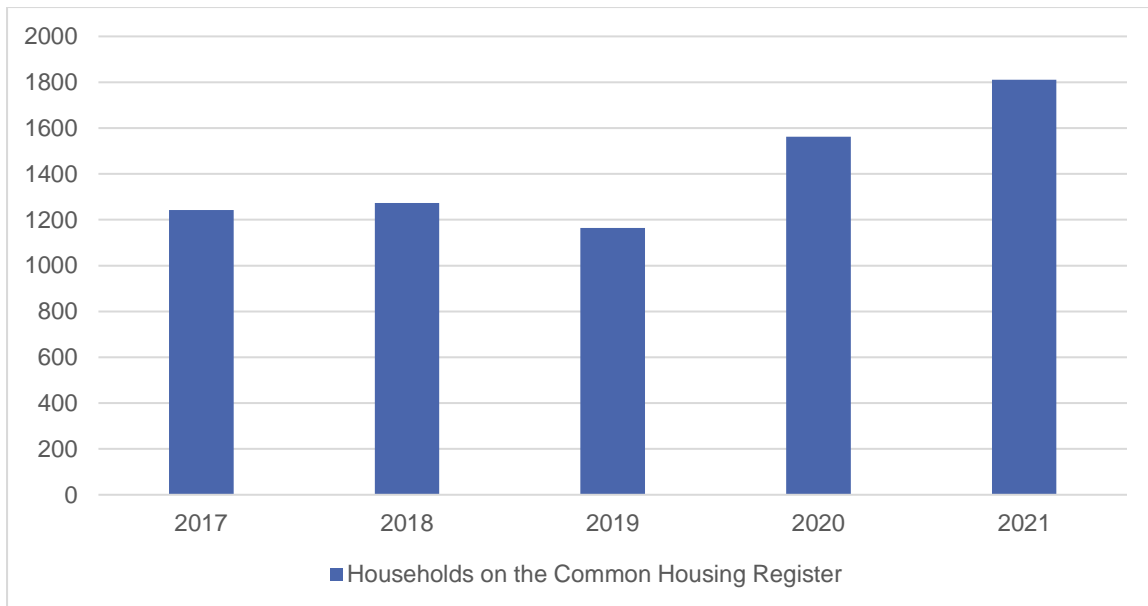


Figure 18 Number of households on the Common Housing register between 2017 and 2021

Sustainability Issue 28: Although affordable homes are consistently being delivered in the District, the need for affordable homes is not met by existing or planned supply.

Sustainability Issue 29: There is a need for affordable housing in Mid Sussex where house prices are high compared to incomes.

Land (including agricultural land, brownfield land and contaminated land)

Soil

4.84. The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into 5 grades (Grade 1: Excellent Quality – Grade 5: Very Poor Quality) based on long-term physical limitations of land for agricultural use. Grades 1, 2 and 3a form the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land definition, however, the data available does not divide Grade 3 into categories 3a and 3b.

- There is no land classified as Grade 1 within the District.
- 1.4% of the District is classified as Grade 2 and the majority of this is within the South Downs National Park or the High Weald AONB.
- 63.7% of the District is classified as Grade 3, some of which is likely to fall into the Grade 3a category.
- 23.2% of the District is classified as Grade 4.

4.85. Whilst there are relatively few large-scale contaminated sites in the District, there are some small-scale contaminated sites.

Sustainability Issue 30: The majority of Mid Sussex District comprises best and most versatile agricultural land with a mix of classified agricultural land.

Pressure to deliver new homes could result in the loss of higher grade of agricultural land.

Brownfield land

- 4.86. Outside of the three main town, Mid Sussex District is predominantly rural and dominated by greenfield land. The table below displays the gross percentage of housing completions on previously development/brownfield land.

Table 6 Housing completions on previously developed/brownfield land in Mid Sussex (Source: West Sussex County Council)

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Number of new dwellings on brownfield land / gross completions	202 / 711	321 / 906	530 / 1010	322 / 648	974 / 308	210 / 838
Gross percentage of housing completions on brownfield land	28.4%	35.4%	52.5%	49.7%	31.6%	25.1%

Landscape

- 4.87. Around 60% of the District is covered by protected landscape designations – nearly 50% is within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and over 10% is within the South Downs National Park (Figure 19). The South Downs National Park Authority is the planning authority for the National Park and has adopted its own Local Plan for the Park area. Those areas of the District within the South Downs National Park are not within the plan area for the District Plan Review and therefore the policies will not apply to those areas.

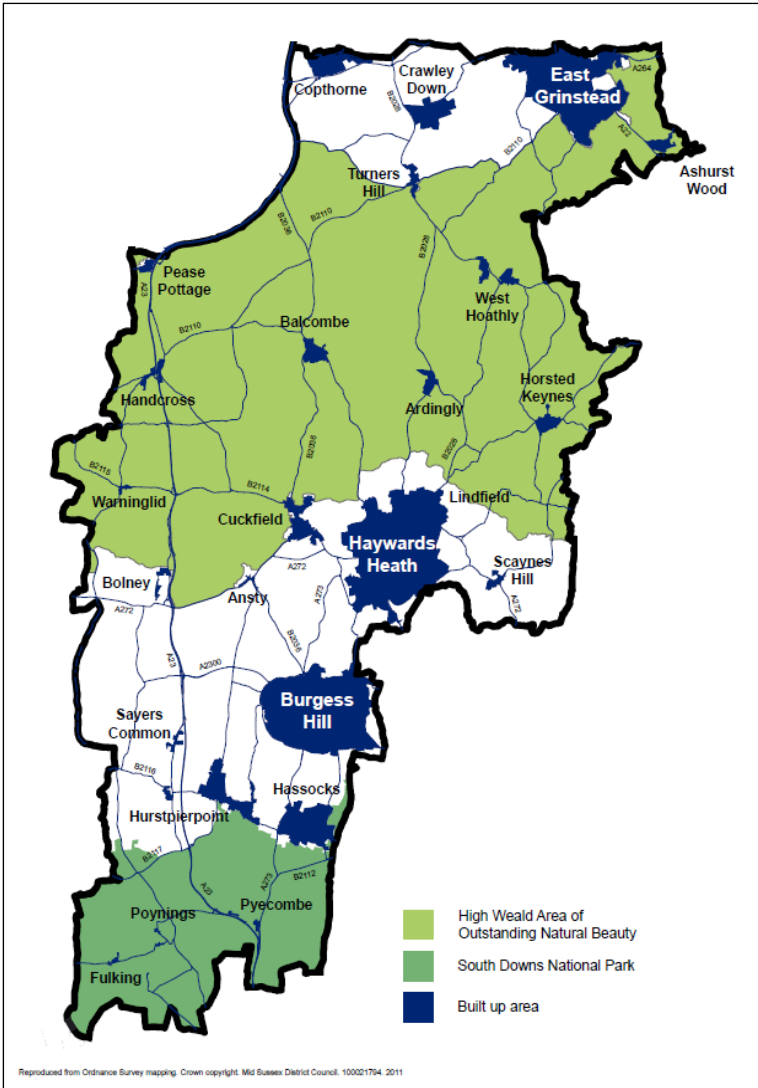


Figure 19 The High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty and the South Downs National Park

4.88. There are three landscape character areas within the District: the High Weald, the Low Weald and the Sussex Downs (Figure 20). Mid Sussex contains areas of ancient and ghyll woodland within the stream valleys of the High Weald. There are a significant number of standing water and wetland habitats such as ponds (including historical mill sites and hammer ponds), lakes, reservoirs and water meadows. There are also many linear/ running water habitats of small streams and ditches, for example, the Upper Adur Streams, which act as a network of wildlife corridors throughout the District.

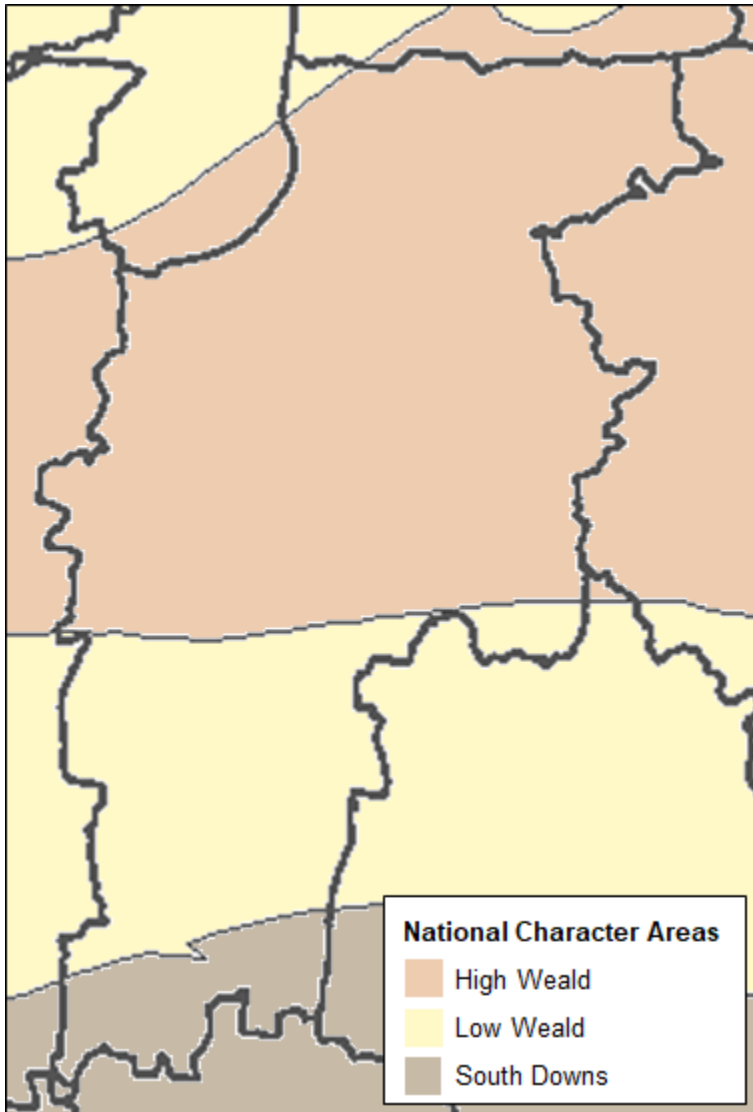


Figure 20 National Character Areas in Mid Sussex

Sustainability Issue 31: The plan area contains an AONB, a national park and a range a nationally recognised landscape character area, all of which could be significantly harmed by inappropriate development. As well as loss of undeveloped land to development, indirect effects of development can also erode landscape character, such as noise and light pollution, recreational pressure, changes to the water environment, and pressure on habitats and biodiversity and the historic environment that contribute to landscape character.

Transport

- 4.89. The Mid Sussex strategic highway model is being updated to take account of housing and employment commitments as well as any transport infrastructure commitments in the District along with identifying growth within neighbouring authority boundaries. The updated model will inform Mid Sussex Transport Study and will be used to test the impact of proposed

development in the District Plan Review on the strategic and local transport network and upon significant routes in Ashdown Forest.

- 4.90. The Mid Sussex Transport Study will inform the allocation of housing and employment sites through the District Plan Review and will assess the capacity performance at local road network links/junctions for the proposed allocation scenarios. The study will also inform sustainable transport mitigation and assumptions to be incorporated into the District Plan evidence base and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).
- 4.91. The Study is required to address the requirements of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) and National Highways (NH), both of whom aim for a sustainable approach to transport within the common objective of managing travel demand to minimise congestion, delays and adverse environmental / safety impact.
- 4.92. The impact on the highway network of the preferred development scenario in the District Plan Review will be assessed based on the National Policy Framework (NPPF) and criteria agreed by WSSCC and NH which conforms with their interpretation of the NPPF in defining traffic impacts. The Study will also be in conformity with best practice and national standards as well National Planning Practice Guidance on transport evidence bases in plan making. Where junctions are assessed to be adversely impacted by the developments, mitigation schemes will be devised and tested with the aim of removing all 'severe' (paragraph 111 of the NPPF) impacts.
- 4.93. In addition to modelling highway capacity impacts, a Safety Study will also be undertaken to identify any significant highway safety issues and provide an analysis of recent accident history. The analysis test and support the preferred development scenario and identifying any necessary highway or traffic management works required to mitigate identified safety problems.
- 4.94. The Mid Sussex Transport Study will also identify forecast changes in traffic flow on roads entering the Ashdown Forest as a result of proposed housing and commercial development proposed in the District Plan Review; the results will be used for the air quality (i.e. eutrophication by nitrogen deposition) and ecological interpretation work. Forecast changes at the Stonepound Crossroads Air Quality Management Area will also be used to inform air quality impacts resulting from the proposed development in this location.

Public Transport

- 4.95. There are six mainline railway stations in Mid Sussex, five of which are on the main Brighton to London line: Hassocks, Burgess Hill, Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath and Balcombe. East Grinstead railway station is on the East Grinstead to London line. The Bluebell Railway, a privately-owned heritage railway now provides services south from East Grinstead and has

long-term plans to reinstate the disused branch line westwards from Horsted Keynes (via Ardingly) to a terminus at Haywards Heath.

- 4.96. In terms of access to train stations, 42.1%% of the District's households are within a 15 minute walking time (approximately 1.2km) from a train station (Figure 21).

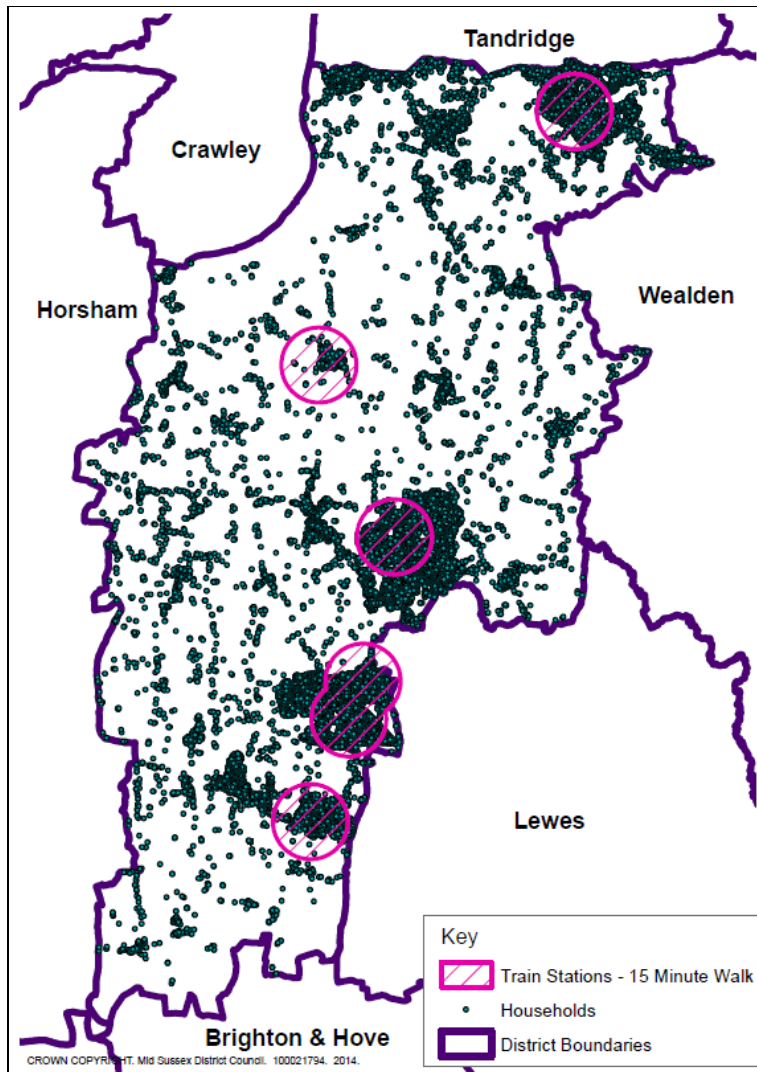


Figure 21 Access to Train Stations

- 4.97. Private bus operators run services connecting the three towns with many of the District's villages and larger regional centres such as Horsham, Crawley and Brighton, although some services are infrequent and many do not operate in the evening or at weekends. Low passenger numbers have meant several bus services have been lost in recent years due to not being economically viable. Several community transport services also run in the District.
- 4.98. In terms of access to bus stops, 91% of the District's households are within a 5 minute walk (approximately 400m) from a bus stop. Whist this is an encouraging figure, this does not account for the frequency of bus service as

many of the rural bus stops have an infrequent service (less than 3 an hour and in some cases less than 3 a day).

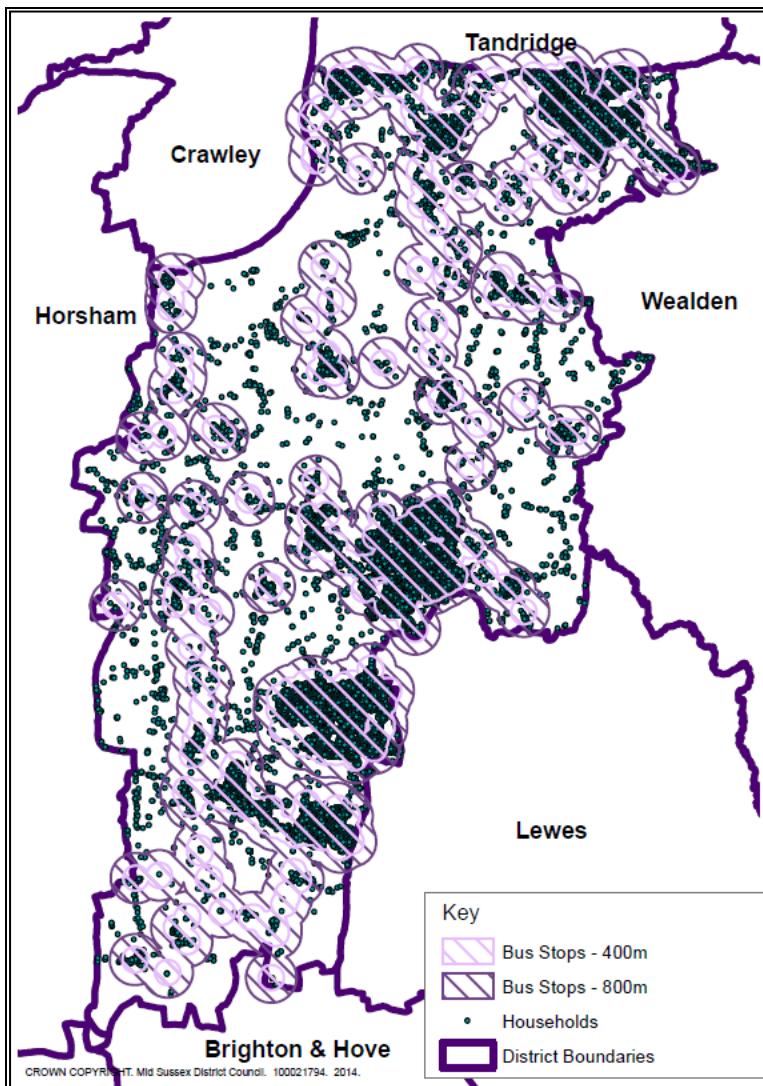


Figure 22 Access to Bus Stops

Sustainability Issue 32: Although there is a good geographical cover of the district with public transport, the frequency of service remains unequal in particular between the rural and urban areas.

Road Network

4.99. Mid Sussex District is generally well served by both bus and rail services, however, road traffic and transport issues predominate as key to the delivery of new homes and businesses in Mid Sussex. The Council has been working in partnership with Highways England and West Sussex County Council as Highways Authority to identify and address issues and to find appropriate sustainable transport solutions.

4.100. The key components of the road network in mid Sussex District are:

- The A23, which links Crawley to Brighton going through the western part of the District.
 - The A272, which links Haywards Heath to Bolney, Cowfold and Billingshurst to the west and Scaynes Hill, North Chailey and Newick to the West
 - The A273, which connects Haywards Heath to Burgess Hill and Hassocks and meets the A23 to access Brighton
 - The A264, which links East Grinstead to the M23 and Crawley via Copthorne to the west and to Royal Tunbridge Wells to the East
 - The A22 which connects East Grinstead to Uckfield and Eastbourne to the south and to the southern areas of London to the north
- 4.101. The remainder of the road network in the district comprises primarily of B roads and rural roads.
- 4.102. In 2011, nearly 65% of journeys to work were by private motor vehicle, around 15% are by public transport and just over 12% are by bicycle or on foot (Census, 2011).
- 4.103. While the urban areas do have good public transport links, the rural settlements within the Plan area are known to have varying levels of provision. Thus, the population within those areas rely heavily on private vehicles to get around and access employment, education, amenities and services, partly as a result of living in more isolated rural areas in particular where basic services and facilities are not provided within the settlements.
- 4.104. Car ownership in the District is high with 86.4% of households having one or more cars or vans, compared to 74.2% nationally. 44.2% of all households have two or more cars compared to 32.1% nationally which raises the risk of traffic congestion issues (Census 2011).

Sustainability Issue 33: Mid Sussex benefits from some public transport provision, however, due to the District being predominantly rural outside of the three main towns, a lot of residents are dependent on the use of private car which impacts both on highway congestion and energy consumption and emission

Sustainability Issue 34: Capacity issues have been identified as various junctions within the district and although highway scheme to help to mitigate congestion are set for implementation, capacity issues in other place will endure and may restrict future development in the district.

Cycling and Walking

- 4.105. Mid Sussex District also benefits from an extensive network of public rights of way totalling around 597.8km, including:
- Footpaths – 475.2km

- Bridleways – 117.2km
- Byways – 4.8km
- Restricted Byways – 0.6km

Waste

4.106. Around 42% of the waste collected in Mid Sussex is sent for recycling/composting/reuse. Comparison at a larger scale is not considered relevant here as it would include waste collected by county councils and the data available does not distinguish between those two levels for waste collected by unitary authorities.

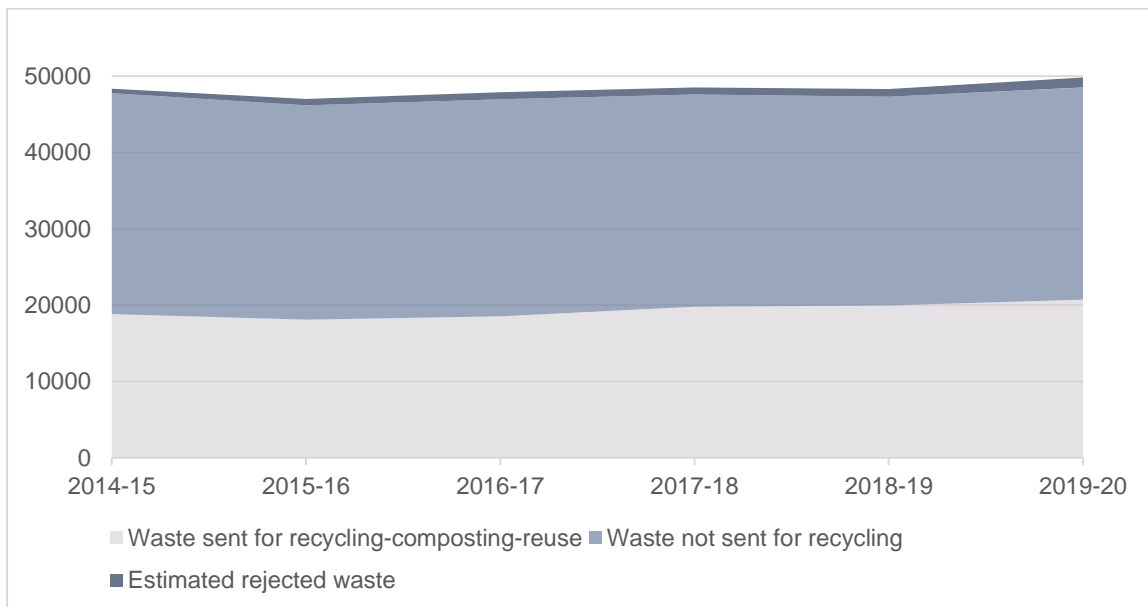


Figure 23 Waste Collected by Mid Sussex District Council between 2014 and 2020 (Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)

4.107. The majority of waste produced in the District is transported to a mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facility for disposal which processes waste into four types (biodegradable waste, refused derived fuel, metal and inert materials). East waste type goes through a separate treatment route with inert material, rejects and residues are sent to landfill. The District Council operates a comprehensive household recycling scheme, collecting dry recycling, small electricals and garden waste. The District also has ambitions to expand this offer to include food waste.

4.108. The Council will engage with West Sussex County Council through the District Plan Review process to ensure that there is sufficient disposal capacity to support development proposal.

Sustainability Issue 35: There is an increasing amount of waste, including an increase in recycling rates, produced by Mid Sussex, while the land available to dispose of waste is limited.

Sustainability Issue 36: A growing population is likely to result in additional waste being produced which will place an increased pressure on waste management facilities and the need to meet these growing needs.

Water

- 4.109. The District is within the South East River Basin. The management plan for the overall area aims at identifying the pressures faced by the water environment and actions to address them. The main challenges are point source pollution from sewage treatment works, the physical modification of water bodies, diffuse pollutions from agricultural activities, diffuse pollution from urban sources and water abstraction.
- 4.110. South East Water, Thames Water and Sutton and East Surrey Water provide for Mid Sussex District.
- 4.111. Ground water supplies a third of the drinking water in England. Therefore, the Environment Agency must protect groundwater sources used to supply drinking water from pollution and have defined Source Protection Zones. There are Source Protection Zones (SPZs) within the Plan Area to the south of Horsted Keynes.
- 4.112. Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (Surface Water) are catchment areas that influence the water quality for their respective Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface Water), which are at risk of failing the drinking water protection objectives. These non-statutory Safeguard Zones are where action to address water contamination will be targeted, so that extra treatment by water companies can be avoided. Safeguard Zones are a joint initiative between the Environment Agency and water companies. Safeguard Zones are one of the main tools for delivering the drinking water protection objectives of the Water Framework Directive. This data includes what substances are causing the drinking water protected area to be 'at risk'. Safeguard Zones cover the northern half of the District.
- 4.113. Under the Water Framework Directive, water quality targets are set in River Basin Management Plans. The majority of water bodies in the District are failing to meet the Good Status objective, and it is recognised that both ground and surface waters face threats from abstraction and pollution.
- 4.114. Mid Sussex District is served by 7 wastewater treatment works (WWTWs). Some of the existing sewerage infrastructure within the District is operating at or near capacity and unless significant investment is made to existing or through new infrastructure, water quality within the watercourses in the District may be at risk (Water Cycle Study, 2011).
- 4.115. In particular, Goddards Green Wastewater Treatment Works (on the outskirts of Burgess Hill) has been identified as having constraints with regards to capacity and odour, which will need to be taken into account

when planning for development that would drain to this particular works. Mitigation works are planned in order to provide sufficient operating capacity to accommodate the Burgess Hill Northern Arc development allocated within the District Plan.

- 4.116. Demand for water is rising and residents in Mid Sussex use approximately 181 litres of water a day. This is higher than the UK average of 154.1 litres. Most of the District is within an area identified as having a deficit in water supply and, therefore, during a dry year the demand for water will be more than the water available for use.

Sustainability Issue 37: Water usage is increasing in Mid Sussex

Sustainability Issue 38: A growing population and an increase in development will place pressure on wastewater treatment works, with some having limited available capacity to meet these needs.

Sustainability Issue 39: Managing water resources and water quality is key to serve existing and future residents.

5. Sustainability Framework

- 5.1. In order to assess the contribution the draft District Plan Review will make towards achieving sustainable development, a range of sustainability objectives have been developed. These objectives are based on the three strands of sustainability: **Social**, **Environmental** and **Economic**.
- 5.2. The Sustainability Appraisal must test the policies and potential sites within the District Plan Review against the sustainability objectives. It must also test a range of reasonable alternatives for the strategy, policies and sites. By doing this, all reasonable alternatives will have been considered and their relative sustainability recorded to determine the most sustainable policies and sites for inclusion within the District Plan review. This ensures that the plan itself is the most sustainable given all reasonable alternatives. The appraisal will take place at the next stage, within the draft Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- 5.3. The impact of each strategy/policy/site option on each of the objectives will be appraised accordingly using the ‘++’ to ‘--’ method as described in section 2 - a prediction as to whether the baseline status of each objective will improve, stay the same or get worse as a result of the policy option in question.
- 5.4. Each objective is quantified by a number of measurable indicators which can be monitored over time to ensure the policies and sites within the District Plan Review are performing as predicted by the appraisal, once adopted. The sustainability objectives and associated indicators make up the ‘Sustainability Framework’.
- 5.5. The objectives chosen represent the issues and challenges facing the District throughout the plan period as identified in section 3. The indicators have been chosen to provide the best possible sources in order to quantify and measure the achievement of each objective. Appendix 2 shows the current baseline figures for as many indicators as possible, the data source from where this has been obtained, and predicted future impacts. Where it is not currently possible to obtain data for an indicator, a reason has been provided. The Council will be investigating ways to collect this data in future, and progress on this will be reported in future stages of this Sustainability Appraisal report.
- 5.6. The proposed SA Framework for the District Plan review is presented in Table 7. It comprises a series of SA Objectives, each accompanied by a set of appraisal questions that will be used to assess the performance of the District Plan review against the SA Objectives, including alternative overall spatial strategies for growth being considered by the Council.

- 5.7. Relevant indicators have been identified from each SA Objective for monitoring purposes. They will allow the Council to identify how the District Plan Review performs once adopted.
- 5.8. The relationship between the SEA Topics which are specific topics that SEA is required to cover, as per Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, is shown in the final column of Table 7. It can be seen that a number of the SA Objectives cut across SEA Topics, showing how inter-related many of these are.

Table 7 SA Framework

SA Objective	Appraisal questions Will the approach/proposal help to...	Indicators	SEA Topics
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a home for their need and which they can afford.	1.1. Meet the housing requirement of the whole community, including of older people? 1.2. Deliver a range of type, tenures and mix of homes the District needs over the plan period? 1.3. Increase the supply of affordable homes? 1.4. Provide for the housing need of an ageing population? 1.5. Meet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>housing completions (net)</i> - <i>affordable housing completions (gross)</i> - <i>affordable housing contributions received</i> - <i>number of households on the housing needs register</i> - <i>number of households accepted as full homeless</i> - <i>house price to earnings ratio</i> - <i>net additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches</i> - <i>number of C2 provision</i> 	Human health Population Material assets
2. To maintain and improve access to health, leisure and open space facilities and reduce inequalities in health.	2.1. Provide for additional facilities to support the need of new and growing communities? 2.2. Improve access to health care facilities and social care services? 2.3. Promote health and encourage healthy lifestyle by maintaining, connecting, creating and enhancing multifunctional open spaces, green infrastructure, and recreation and sport facilities? 2.4. Promote healthy lifestyle choices by encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling? 2.5. Support special needs and an ageing population? 2.6. Increase access to leisure and open space facilities including in the countryside? 2.7. Provide a range of play space for children and young people?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>number of applications resulting in new, extended or improved health facilities</i> - <i>number of households within a 15 minute walk (approx. 1.2km) from GP surgery/health centre/hospital</i> - <i>number of households within 300m of leisure and open space facilities (as defined in the Open Space study)</i> - <i>hectares of accessible open space per 1,000 population</i> - <i>financial contributions towards leisure facilities received</i> - <i>financial contributions towards health received</i> - <i>amount of additional community facilities delivered</i> - <i>percentage of population not in good health</i> 	Population Human Health Fauna Biodiversity Flora Material assets
3. To maintain and improve the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work and improve	3.1. Improve qualifications and skills of young people and adults? 3.2. Provide an adequate range of education and childcare facilities? 3.3. Contribute to meeting primary, secondary and post 19 education needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>percentage of population of working age qualified to at least NVQ level 3 (or equivalent)</i> - <i>percentage of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills</i> - <i>number of households within a 15 minute walk (approx. 1.2km) from a Primary School</i> 	Population Human health Material assets

SA Objective	Appraisal questions Will the approach/proposal help to...	Indicators	SEA Topics
access to educational facilities.			
4. To create safe and crime resistant communities, encourage social cohesion and reduce inequalities. Promote integration within existing town/village and retain their separate identities.	4.1. Reduce crime/fear of crime and anti-social activity? 4.2. Promote design that discourages crime? 4.3. Promote sustainable mixed use environments? 4.4. Improve access to community facilities? 4.5. Maintain existing community facilities and encourage the delivery of new ones?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>all crime – number of crimes per 1000 residents per annum</i> - <i>number of domestic burglaries per 1,000 households</i> - <i>Number of dwellings permitted more than 150m from a built-up area boundary</i> - <i>number of households within a 15 minute walk (approx. 1.2km) from community facilities (e.g. community hall, place of worship, library)</i> - <i>number of applications resulting in a loss of community facilities (e.g. shop, pub, place of worship, etc)</i> 	Population Human health Material assets
5. To reduce the risk to people, properties, the economy and the environment of flooding from all sources	5.1. Minimise inappropriate development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into account the impacts of climate change? 5.2. Promote the use of Natural Flood Management schemes, SuDS and flood resilient design? 5.3. Incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>percentage of the District that is within Flood Zone 2/Flood Zone 3</i> - <i>number of properties at risk from flooding, as defined by the Environment Agency</i> - <i>number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the Lead Local Flood Authority/EA on flood risk/flood defence grounds</i> - <i>number of developments with sustainable drainage systems</i> 	Climatic factors Human health Biodiversity Flora Fauna Material assets Water
6. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and	6.1. Support the redevelopment of previously developed land? 6.2. Make best use of land? 6.3. Encourage the construction of more sustainable homes? 6.4. Minimise the loss of open countryside to development? 6.5. Minimise the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land to development? 6.6. Maintain and enhance soil quality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>percentage of new and converted homes developed on brownfield land</i> - <i>percentage of new employment floorspace on previously developed land</i> - <i>average density of new housing developments</i> - <i>amount of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) lost to development</i> - <i>amount of empty homes</i> 	Soil Material assets

SA Objective	Appraisal questions Will the approach/proposal help to...	Indicators	SEA Topics
encourage urban renaissance.			
7. To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity	<p>7.1. Avoid adverse effects on internationally and nationally designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within an outside the District?</p> <p>7.2. Avoid adverse effects on locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and outside the District, including ancient woodland?</p> <p>7.3. Seek to protect and enhance ecological networks, promoting the achievement of net gain where possible, whilst taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>7.4. Provide and manage the opportunities for people to come into contact with wildlife whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of biodiversity?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number and area of Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR) within the District - area of ancient woodland within the District - condition of internationally and nationally important wildlife and geological sites (SSSI, SPA, SAC & Ramsar) - number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by Natural England on biodiversity issues - number of dwellings permitted within the 7km Zone of Influence (SPA) - capacity of Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG) - net gain in biodiversity 	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
8. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the District's countryside and ensure no harm to protected landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<p>8.1. Conserve and enhance the High Weald AONB?</p> <p>8.2. Conserve and enhance the settings of the South Downs National Park?</p> <p>8.3. Protect and enhance settlements and their settings within the landscape across the district?</p> <p>8.4. Protect and enhance landscape character?</p> <p>8.5. Promote high quality design in context with its rural and urban landscape?</p> <p>8.6. Maintain and where possible increase accessibility to the countryside and more generally to open spaces?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - open spaces managed to green flag standard - number of applications approved contrary to advice from the High Weald AONB unit or the South Downs National Park Authority - amount of new development (units) within the High Weald AONB - number of households within 300m of multi-functional green space (as defined in the Mid Sussex Assessment of Open Space) - hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population. - Amount of rights of way - Number of new dwellings approved on low/negligible sites in the Plan Area as identified in the Landscape Capacity Study 	Landscape Cultural heritage Architectural and archaeological heritage
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the	9.1. Protect, enhance and restore buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and landscape of heritage interest or cultural value (including their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - number of Listed Buildings in the District - number of Conservation Areas in the District - number of Conservation Areas with appraisals and management proposal 	Cultural heritage

SA Objective	Appraisal questions Will the approach/proposal help to...	Indicators	SEA Topics
District's historic environment.	setting) meriting consideration in planning decisions? 9.2. Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of archaeological value in both urban and rural areas? 9.3. Reduce the number of buildings at risk? 9.4. Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and where appropriate recommend mitigation strategies? 9.5. Enhance accessibility to cultural heritage assets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>number of heritage assets recorded as 'at risk'</i> 	Architectural and archaeological heritage
10. The reduce road congestion and pollution levels by encouraging efficient patterns of movements, the use of sustainable travel modes and securing good access to services across the district, thereby reducing the level of greenhouse gases from private cars and their impact on climate change.	10.1. Develop more efficient land use patterns that minimise the need to travel by car through the location and design of new development and place which provide more opportunities for active travel for the provision and link to public transport infrastructure? 10.2. Reduce CO2 emissions to contribute to identified national targets? 10.3. Improve accessibility to work and services by public transport, walking and cycling? 10.4. Protect and improve air quality? 10.5. Avoid exacerbating existing air quality issues in designated AQMAs? 10.6. Achieve a healthy living environment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Car ownership</i> - <i>number of households within a 5 minute walk (approx. 400m) of a bus stop with frequent service (3+ an hour)</i> - <i>number of households within a 10 minute walk (approx. 800m) of a bus stop with less frequent service (less than 3 an hour)</i> - <i>number of households within a 15 minute walk (approx. 1.2km) of a train station</i> - <i>proportion of journeys to work other than by car</i> - <i>percentage of residents living and working within Mid Sussex</i> - <i>monetary investment in sustainable transport schemes (value of s.106 agreements)</i> - <i>number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the District</i> - <i>change in CO2 emissions from transport</i> - <i>number of households within 30min by public transport, or 15min by walking or cycling journey time from services from a superstore/town centre/high street shopping facilities)</i> - <i>number of households within 30min by public transport, or 15min by walking or cycling journey time from a convenience store</i> 	Material assets Climatic factors Landscape Population Human health Air Fauna

SA Objective	Appraisal questions Will the approach/proposal help to...	Indicators	SEA Topics
11. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the District to help mitigate climate change and reduce waste generation and disposal.	11.1. Reduce energy consumption? 11.2. Reduce waste generated per head of population? 11.3. Increase rate per head of population of waste reuse and recycling? 11.4. Encourage recycling (including building materials)? 11.5. Incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>domestic energy consumption per household</i> - <i>number of renewable energy installations within Mid Sussex</i> - <i>installed capacity of renewable energy installations within Mid Sussex</i> - <i>domestic waste produced per head of population</i> - <i>percentage of domestic waste that has been recycled</i> 	Climatic factors Material assets
12. To maintain and improve the water quality of the District's watercourses and aquifers, and to achieve sustainable water resources management.	12.1. Protect and enhance water resources? 12.2. Support the achievement of Water Framework Directive targets? 12.3. Promote sustainable use of water? 12.4. Maintain water availability or water dependant habitats? 12.5. Support the provision of sufficient water supply and treatment infrastructure? 12.6. Incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Stretches of watercourse that are, as a minimum, Water Framework Directive status "Moderate"</i> - <i>Stretches of watercourse with no deterioration in Water Framework Directive status</i> - <i>incidents of major and significant water pollution within the District</i> - <i>number of planning applications approved contrary to advice given by the EA on water quality issues</i> - <i>number of developments that minimise water consumption</i> 	Water Biodiversity Fauna Flora Material assets
13. To encourage the regeneration and prosperity of the District's existing Town Centres and support the viability and viability of village and neighbourhood centres.	13.1. Protect key retail areas? 13.2. Encourage rural diversification? 13.3. Make land available for business development? 13.4. Increase the range of employment opportunities, shops and services available in the town centres across the district? 13.5. Decrease the number of vacant units in town centres? 13.6. Enhance the viability and vitality of the District's town centres?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Total amount of floorspace for "Town Centre Uses" (A1, A2, B1a, D2)</i> - <i>number of households within a 15 minute walk (approx. 1.2km) from a town centre superstore/town centre/high street shopping facilities)</i> - <i>retail unit vacancy rate</i> - <i>total amount of new commercial/business floorspace in rural areas</i> - <i>number of vacant sites brought back into use in Town Centres</i> 	Population Material assets

SA Objective	Appraisal questions Will the approach/proposal help to...	Indicators	SEA Topics
	13.7. Improve access to the District's town centres and services? 13.8. Enhance the local distinctiveness in the town centres? 13.9. Provide new or improved leisure, recreational or cultural activities? 13.10. Maintain or increase the amount of floorspace provided for town centre uses within the town centres?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>number of households within 30min by public transport, or 15min by walking or cycling journey time from services from a superstore/town centre/high street shopping facilities)</i> 	
14. To promote and sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the District to ensure high and stable levels of employment including the opportunity for people to live and work within their communities.	14.1. Improve business development and enhance competitiveness? 14.2. Improve the resilience of business and the economy? 14.3. Promote growth in key sectors? 14.4. Reduce out commuting? 14.5. At least maintain and possibly improve employment rate across the District? 14.6. Increase the range of employment opportunities? 14.7. Facilitate the provision of good quality infrastructure to promote economic growth?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>net increase/decrease in commercial (Use Classes E, B2, B8) and office (E) floorspace</i> - <i>number of businesses within the District</i> - <i>number of new businesses setting up in the District</i> - <i>percentage of Mid Sussex residents who are employed</i> - <i>percentage of Mid Sussex residents who are economically active</i> - <i>average weekly income (gross) for those who are employed in the District</i> - <i>percentage of residents living and working within Mid Sussex</i> - <i>job density (ratio of jobs to working age population)</i> 	Population Material assets Human health

6. Consultation and next steps

Consultation

- 6.1. Local authorities are required to consult on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal with the relevant statutory bodies which are defined in Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 as being Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency. The Council also included to this first consultation on the Sustainability appraisal neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers and other organisations.

Next Steps

- 6.2. The sustainability appraisal will development alongside the preparation of the District Plan Review. The selection of strategy, policy and site options will be based on the assessment of the most sustainable alternatives. In the SA reports, we will document how the SA process and the District Plan process are interlinked.

Appendix 1



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



Appendix 2

Policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives

Introduction

As required by Article 5(1) Annex 1 (a) and (e) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive this Appendix sets out the plans, programmes, policies, strategies, guidance and initiatives, which have informed the content of the Site Allocations DPD.

The Appendix is set out in six tables, one detailing plans, programmes, policies, strategies, guidance and initiatives that cover General Sustainable Development principles, and then one table for each of the five guiding sustainable development principles:

- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- Living Within Environmental Limits
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

There are a number of PPPSGIs that cover one or more of the five headings; these have been placed in the general category where it is clear that they can impact on all of the five areas. For those that could impact on one or two areas a decision has been made to include them in only one category.

Any conflicts, constraints and challenges, which may arise through the interpretation of the different policy documents, have been identified at the bottom of each table with an indication of how the Site Allocations DPD will take them into account.

General Sustainable Development

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
International		
The Johannesburg Declaration on	Commitment to sustainability principles and the	Interpreted into national sustainable

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
<p>Sustainable Development (2002)</p> <p>Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)</p> <p>The Sustainable Development Goals Report (2020)</p>	<p>sustainable development agenda agreed at Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992.</p> <p>Sets out goals and targets to stimulate actions over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet</p> <p>Overview of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals before the pandemic started and some of the initial impacts of COVID-19 on specific goals and targets</p>	<p>development strategies, which will inform the District Plan Review.</p> <p>Interpreted into national sustainable development strategies, which will inform the District Plan Review.</p> <p>Interpreted into national sustainable development strategies, which will inform the District Plan Review.</p>
<p>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</p>	<p>Sustainable development of the European Union, balancing competitiveness with economic and social cohesion, conservation and management of natural resources and the cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Interpreted into national guidance, which will inform the District Plan Review.</p>
<p>National</p>		
<p>'A Better Quality of Life' – A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK (1999)</p>	<p>Set out the four key objectives to achieving sustainable development which have been used to influence some of the planning policy documents still in circulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone • Effective protection of the environment • Prudent use of natural resources • Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth 	
<p>'Securing the Future' – the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</p>	<p>Superseded and updated 'A Better Quality of Life' document, creating five sustainable development principles, which are used to guide policy documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Within Environmental Limits • Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society • Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy • Promoting Good Governance • Using Sound Science Responsibly. 	
<p>Mainstreaming sustainable</p>	<p>Building on the 2005 Sustainable Development Strategy,</p>	

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
development (2011)	<p>this document stated 4 points for delivering sustainable development in government, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial leadership and oversight • Leading by example • Embedding sustainable development in Government policy • Transparency and independent scrutiny 	
A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	Provides information and guidance on how to comply with the European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”.	The Sustainability Appraisal must fully integrate the SEA requirements.
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Clause 38 places a duty on Local Authorities to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.	Mid Sussex District Council is required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal to accompany certain planning documents including the District Plan Review.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Sets out the procedures for the preparation, approval and adoption of Development Plans and for the control of development.	Certain parts of the Act need to be adhered to in preparing the District Plan Review.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - 2019	Sets out the Government’s priorities for planning in England, and contains a general assumption in favour of sustainable development.	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)	Provides further guidance to support the NPPF	The District Plan review must be in conformity with the NPPF and therefore must heed the guidance set out in the NPPG.
Localism Act 2011	Act that decentralises power as far as possible from central government to individuals, communities and councils. Introduces neighbourhood planning, amongst other key measures. The Localism Act 2011 was given Royal Assent on 15 th November 2011.	The District Plan Review must ensure Neighbourhood Plans are accounted for.
Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017)	Initial a more efficient planning system which also helps communities plan for the homes that they require.	The District Plan Review must ensure Neighbourhood Plans are accounted for.
Local		

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
Mid Sussex District Council Corporate Plan	The main purpose of the Corporate Plan is to set out the Council's priorities. These include Council self-sufficiency, sustainable economic growth and strong and resilient communities.	The District Plan reflects the issues highlighted by the Corporate Plan, the District Plan Review will most likely benefit the economic growth priority.

Constraints, conflicts and challenges

Sustainable development has been placed at the centre of the new planning system. Legislation and guidance for planning and many other elements of sustainable development has been emerging for many years. It is essential that this is reflected in all Local Development Documents. The challenge is to ensure that it is easily understandable and that it is clear that economic, environmental and social considerations have been taken into account.

From the plans, programmes, policies, strategies, guidance and initiatives identified in the above table it is obvious that there is a significant amount of documentation advocating general sustainable development principles. The documents that should be given priority are the ones that are a material consideration in producing the Site Allocations DPD, as well as being the most recently published.

Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
International		
United National Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (known as the Aarhus Convention) (1998)	Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.	Interpreted into national law.
National		
National Planning Policy Framework	Sets out the Government's priorities for planning in	The District Plan review must be in conformity

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
(NPPF) (2021)	<p>England including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NPPF promotes healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social integration, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles - One of the core planning principles is to “take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community” - Local plans should “contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible”. To determine the minimum number of homes needed strategic policies should be informed by the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance, or a justified alternative approach. - The promotion of retaining and enhancing of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports, cultural venues and places of worship - Developments should create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion - There is a need to take a “proactive, positive and collaborative approach” to bring forward development that will “widen choice in education”, including sufficient choice of school places. 	with the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)	Provides further guidance to support the NPPF	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF and therefore must heed the guidance set out in the NPPG.
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our	Sets out how the Government’s approach will address	

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
Strategy for public health in England (2010)	public health challenged=s.	
Localism Act 2011	Act that decentralises power as far as possible from central government to individuals, communities and councils. Introduces neighbourhood planning, amongst other key measures. The Localism Act 2011 was given Royal Assent on 15 th November 2011.	The District Plan Review must ensure Neighbourhood Plans are accounted for.
Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017)	Initial a more efficient planning system which also helps communities plan for the homes that they require.	The District Plan Review must ensure Neighbourhood Plans are accounted for.
Planning Policy For Traveller Sites (2015)	Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.	
Building for a Healthy Life: A design code for neighbourhoods, streets, homes and public spaces (2020)	updates England's most widely known and most widely used design tool for creating places that are better for people and nature. The original 12-point structure and underlying principles within Building for Life 12 are at the heart of BHL.	
Local		
Mid Sussex District Council Development Infrastructure and Contributions SPD (2018)	Sets out various infrastructure requirements that development will be expected to contribute towards. Includes a contributions calculator for different sizes of new private and affordable dwellings.	The requirements set out in the SPD will need to be reviewed as part of the District Plan Review
Burgess Hill Town Wide Strategy (2011)	This strategy sets out the general principles, visions and objectives for Burgess Hill over the plan period and provides a foundation on which policies addressing strategic development at Burgess Hill are based.	Policies relating to strategic development at Burgess Hill will be informed by the Burgess Hill Town Wide Strategy.
Mid Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Strategy (2007)	The document sets out the Council's strategy for ensuring we are able to meet the housing needs of local	Allocated sites will be required to deliver the affordable housing requirement.

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	residents in rural areas, in particular those who cannot afford to rent or buy a property on the open market.	
Mid Sussex Community Safety Plan (2008)	To protect and improve the quality of the local environment and to achieve long-term reductions in crime, disorder and the fear of crime.	Allocated sites should accord with guidance produced by others, e.g. 'Safer Places' and 'By Design'.
Refreshed Housing Strategy for Mid Sussex (2012)	The key aim is to set out how a supply of good quality homes will be provided across the District. This provision also includes affordable housing.	The District Plan assists in meeting the aims of the strategy by providing affordable and open market housing, the District Plan Review will need to consider this.
Leisure & Cultural Strategy for Mid Sussex 2009-2020	The Strategy aims to guide all those involved in leisure and cultural provision as to how they can best work together to maximise the opportunities that can result from leisure and cultural development in Mid Sussex.	The District Plan Review will need to take account of this strategy.
Affordable Housing SPD (2018)	To provide information about affordable housing for the area of Mid Sussex that falls outside the South Downs National Park Authority	
Mid Sussex Design Guide SPD (2020)	To provide clear design principles that aim to deliver high quality new development across Mid Sussex that is inclusive and responds appropriately to its context while prioritising sustainability in the design process.	
Burgess Hill Town Centre Masterplan (2006)	To develop a vision, objectives and guiding principles for the Town Centre	
East Grinstead Town Centre Masterplan (2006)		
Haywards Heath Town Centre Masterplan (2021)		

Constraints, conflicts and challenges

There is a general consensus in these documents that housing development has to occur within Mid Sussex and that new housing can enable some social problems to be alleviated. The challenge is to ensure that the Site Allocations balances the requirement for new development with its impact on the environment. It is also essential that the provision of new housing is linked with the

provision of community facilities and services both within the new development and the existing town and village centres. Failure to do this would be likely to result in social exclusion.

Much of the policy and guidance that is laid out in the nationally produced documents has been translated into regional and district level policy and guidance, therefore resulting in few conflicts between the range of documents that cover social issues.

Living within Environmental Limits

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
International		
European Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management (known as the Air Quality Framework Directive) and Directive 08/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (known as the Air Quality Directive) Kyoto Protocol 1997	Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and establish legally binding limits for the most common harmful sources of air pollution. The protocol commits 38 industrialised countries to cut their emissions of greenhouse gases between 2008 and 2012 to levels that are 5.2% below 1990 levels.	Interpreted into national guidance. Interpreted into national guidance.
European Union Sixth Environmental Action Plan	High level of protection of the environment and human health and a general improvement in the environment and quality of life.	Interpreted into national guidance.
European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment European Landscape Convention (2002)	Sets out detailed requirements of environmental assessment required for plans such as Development Plan Documents. Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.	The sustainability appraisal accompanying the District Plan review must comply with the requirements of this legislation. Interpreted into national guidance.
European Directive 92/43/EEC (and	To conserve natural habitats and threatened species.	The sustainability appraisal accompanying the

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
amended by 97/62/EC) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (known as the Habitats Directive)	To protect natural heritage.	District Plan Review must comply with the requirements of this legislation.
European Directive 79/409/EEC (and amended by 2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds (known as the Birds Directive)	Preservation, maintenance or restoration of sufficient diversity and area of habitats in order to conserve all species of birds.	This Directive has been interpreted into national guidance
European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (known as the European Flood Directive)	To require the assessment of flood risk for water courses and coast lines, the mapping of the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk.	Interpreted into national guidance.
European Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (known as the European Waste Framework Directive)	Sets out the waste hierarchy requiring the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and final disposal that does not harm the environment, including human health.	Interpreted into national guidance.
European Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (known as the EU Water Framework Directive)	To promote the sustainable use of water, protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems and to contribute towards the mitigation of the effects of flood and droughts.	Interpreted into national guidance.
United Nation Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015)	International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels.	
UN Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (2019)	Sets out the impact of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial level and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.	

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
The trans-European Networks (TEN) (2019)	Created by the European Union by Articles 154-156 of the Treaty of Rome (1957), with the stated goals of the creation of an internal market and the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion. These include the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T), which includes High Speed 1, and the Trans-European Telecommunications Networks (eTEN).	
National		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Serves to protect the most important examples of habitats and species in Britain.	This Act has been interpreted into national guidance.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CROW Act)	Tightens the provisions of the above mentioned Act by making it an offence to recklessly damage protected habitats and fauna.	This Act has been interpreted into national guidance. Regard needs to be given to this guidance in the District Plan Review.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Implements the Habitats Directive and protects biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora.	The District Plan Review must comply with the requirements of this legislation.
Waste Strategy for England (Defra, 2007)	The strategy describes the Government's vision for sustainable waste management. This includes seeking to increase the percentages of waste that is either recycled or composted over a given period of time.	The District Plan Review should reflect the vision of this document.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	<p>Identifies key planning objectives, requiring planning authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarch - Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns. - Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste. - Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment. - Ensure the design and layout of new development 	

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	supports sustainable waste management.	
Resources and waste strategy for England (2018)	Sets out how material resources will be preserved by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England	
Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England (2011)	This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.	
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	Sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes: incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).	The District Plan Review will need to comply with this legislation.
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	These strategies set out the Environment Agency policies for the licensing of water abstraction.	The Management Strategies that are applicable to Mid Sussex District will need to be taken into consideration when deciding how new housing development will be served with water.
River Basin Management Plans (2015)	For the protection and improvement of the water environment	The District Plan Review should promote sustainable water management and improvements in water quality of 'water bodies'.
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI, 2003)	This strategy defines a long-term strategic vision for energy policy combining the governments environmental, security of supply, competitiveness and social goals.	To assist in implementing the government's goals for the energy policy (i.e. cut carbon dioxide emissions and maintain the reliability of energy supplies).

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
Planning and Energy Act (2008)	Enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.	
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Sets out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO2 emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.	
The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (2012)	Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.	
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	<p>Sets out the Government's priorities for planning in England including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the core planning principles is to "support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. - Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. - Local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. - The planning system should protect and enhance soils in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or quality identified in the development plan. 	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF.

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. - Despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land should be remediated and mitigated where appropriate. - The reuse of previously developed land is encouraged where suitable opportunities exist. - Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and ensuring resilience to climate change impacts, and new development should avoid increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change - Recognising the intrinsic beauty and character of the countryside. - Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Development should be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting. - Conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. - Encourages local planning authorities to consider transport issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: opportunities to promote sustainable transport are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that 	

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.	
Defra 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	Sets out the Government's actions to help the natural world regain and retain good health.	The District Plan Review will consider the wider environmental actions within this plan.
Planning Act 2008	The Planning Act 2008 was amended under the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (EU Exit) Regulations 2018. Section 182 places a legal duty on local planning authorities to ensure that their development plan documents include policies to ensure that development and use of land in their area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	The District Plan Review will need to comply with this requirement.
Climate Change Act (2008)	Sets legally binding targets on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK by at least 80% by 2050 and 34% by 2020 against a 1990 baseline	
Carbon Plan (2011)	Set out how the UK will make the transition to a low carbon economy covering issues such as low carbon buildings, transport and energy.	
The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017)	Sets out six priority areas needing urgent further action over the next five years in order to minimise risk from the effects of climate change.	
Energy Acts (2008, 2011)	Cover carbon capture and storage, renewable energy, feed-in tariffs, smart metering and renewable heat incentives. Introduce the Green Deal as a mean of financing energy efficiency improvements.	
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)	Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives.	

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
The Road to Zero (2018)	Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.	
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	Sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals.	
Regional/ County		
Biodiversity Action Plan for Sussex	Purpose to focus resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Sussex by means of local partnerships, taking account of national and local priorities.	The District Plan Review will need to take account of nature conservation and biodiversity issues.
West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2026	Key objectives of the plan include providing a high quality and resilient transport network, and improve accessibility to services, quality of life, safety, public transport and sustainability.	Proposed schemes and measures are put forward for Mid Sussex and the District Plan Review will need to take these into account.
The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 The High Weald AONB Housing Design Guide (2019)	Identifies the important features of the AONB and sets out guidance and objectives on the ways in which these features can be protected, restored and enhanced. To meet the requirement of the NPPF for well-designed places and the conservation and enhancement of the AONB	The land and countryside management issues in the document should be considered in the District Plan Review. Allocated sites should accord with this guidance.
A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape, West Sussex County Council (2005)	The document identifies the important features of the character of the West Sussex landscape and sets out a number of key management issues and guidelines. It does not contain land use policies but deals with good management practice of the area in relation to landscape character.	The land and countryside management issues in the document will need to be considered for the District Plan review.
High Weald Natural Area profile, published by English Nature	The Natural Area profile contains an analysis of the local wildlife resource and provides a context within which the	The District Plan Review will need to take account of nature conservation and

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	Biodiversity Action Plan for Sussex can operate. It sets strategic objectives for conservation of those features characteristic of the Natural Area.	biodiversity issues. The Site Allocations DPD should draw on strategic objectives described in the Natural Area profile.
Seeing the Wood for the Trees: A Forestry and Woodlands Framework for South East England (2004)	Sets out a framework for the future development of woodlands and forestry in the South East with the vision of wanting woods to make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of the South East region in both rural and urban areas.	The District Plan Review will need to take into account areas of woodland.
Countryside Character Volume 7: South East and London, CA 13 (1999)	Identifies the important features of the character of England, including the High Weald Character Area 122 and sets out a number of key management issues and guidelines. It does not contain land use policies but deals with good management practice of the area in relation to landscape character.	The land and countryside management issues in the document should be considered in relation to the proposed development options.
Mid Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2005)	This document looks in more detail at the character of the District and contains detailed management guidelines.	The management guidelines in particular have been taken into consideration when looking at the locations for new development.
Mid Sussex Ancient Woodland Survey (2007)	The survey sought to identify the areas of ancient woodland within Mid Sussex.	Ancient Woodland is a key biodiversity asset for the district and needs to be recognised in the District Plan review.
South East River Basin Management Plan (2015)	Provides the details regarding the status of waterbodies in Mid Sussex District and sets the requirements for their improvement and achieving good ecological status by 2027.	The District Plan Review will need to take into the impact on waterbodies.
Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation guidance for Sussex (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide clarity to how authorities intend interpreting relevant Local Plan policies • To provide advice for developers and their consultant on how to assess and mitigate the impact that new development may have on local air quality 	The District Plan Review will need to take account of this guidance.

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To detail a consistent approach by development and Local Planning Authorities to address impacts on local air quality, ensure optimum scheme design to reduce emissions and/or exposure and avoid unnecessary delays in the planning process 	
West Sussex LLFA Policy for the Management of Surface Water (2018)	To set out the requirement that the LLFA has for drainage strategies and surface water management provisions associate with applications for development.	Allocated sites will need to accord with these requirements.
Southern Water – Water Resources Management Plan 2020-2070 (2019)	To explain how water companies forecast supply and demand in their area in order to deliver secure public water supply.	The District Plan review will need to take of water availability and capacity of the associated infrastructure.
South East Water – Water Resources Management plan 2019		
A summary of Climate Change Risks for South East England (2012)	Coincides with the publication of UK’s first Climate Change Risk Assessment, presenting a local perspective of the CCRA risk and opportunities.	
West Sussex County Council – Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030 (2020)		
Local		
Mid Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation (2006)	This work looks in more detail at the history of the landscape of the District.	The management guidelines have been taken into consideration when looking at the locations for new development.
Mid Sussex Extensive Urban Surveys (2005 and 2006)	These surveys are a joint venture between West and East Sussex County Councils, Brighton & Hove City Council and English Heritage and cover 41 historic towns/ villages, 5 of which are within Mid Sussex. The output is a Historic Character Assessment Report, which aid in the understanding of the historic qualities of the towns and villages in Mid Sussex.	The reports aid in the assessment of the options for the strategic locations of housing as well as identifying key historical features of value that will be considered in the allocations within the District Plan Review.
Mid Sussex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2015)	Produced in accordance with SFRA guidance, this work identifies all areas of flood risk within the district as well	The District Plan Review needs to ensure that new development avoids areas identified at

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the District Plan Review
	as what the level of risk is. Guidelines for new development, with regards to avoiding areas of flood risk, requirements of a flood risk assessment and advice on the use of SuDS have subsequently been prepared.	risk of flooding and that the existing level of flood risk within and outside Mid Sussex is not exacerbated and, where possible, reduced. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is a key tool for achieving these requirements.
Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Guidelines	The Appraisal and Management Guidelines are produced in order to clearly identify what qualities make the specific conservation areas special and how these qualities can be preserved and enhanced.	These documents provide further information on the areas of townscape that are important to Mid Sussex, which the District Plan Review could use in setting the policy approach for sites impacting on these areas.
Catchment Flood Management Plans for the Adur, Ouse, Medway and Thames	These documents are strategic planning tools through which the Environment Agency will seek to work with other key decision-makers within a river catchment to identify and agree policies for sustainable flood risk management.	The District Plan Review will need to complement these CFMPs and ensure that it does not compromise the ability of the CFMP to deliver its policies.
Mid Sussex Capacity Study (LUC) (2014)	The study identifies the capacity of the Mid Sussex landscape to accommodate strategic development.	This study has been a key piece of evidence in the identification and appraisal of options for the strategic locations of housing as well as the formulation of policies concerning the District's landscape.
Mid Sussex District Council Sustainable Construction SPD (2006)	Seeks to promote sustainable building methods based on national advice and good practice on sustainable construction. Acknowledges that each site should be considered on its individual merits in terms of which sustainable construction techniques are appropriate.	The District Plan Review should take into account sustainable construction techniques.

Constraints, conflicts and challenges

Concerning conflicts between the environmental plans and policies, there does not seem to be any obvious cases. This is generally due to International and European environmental legislation being incorporated into national and regional planning guidance.

There is a general consensus that the built and natural environment is an important resource that should be safeguarded. However, the need for new housing in West Sussex that cannot be accommodated on brownfield sites means that some loss is inevitable.

A balance needs to be struck between the acknowledged need for new development and the importance attached to natural areas. Therefore, the Site Allocations DPD will need to incorporate measures to minimise and mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the environment.

Achieving a Sustainable Economy

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the Site Allocations DPD
National		
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (2006)	This document sets out guidance on the importance of tourism and to facilitate, promote and deliver new tourism development in a sustainable way.	The District Plan Review needs to consider the guidelines in this document.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - 2019	Sets out the Government's priorities for planning in England, and contains a general assumption in favour of sustainable development.	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)	Provides further guidance to support the NPPF	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF and therefore must heed the guidance set out in the NPPG.
Localism Act 2011	Act that decentralises power as far as possible from central government to individuals, communities and councils. Introduces neighbourhood planning, amongst other key measures. The Localism Act 2011 was given Royal Assent on 15 th November 2011.	The District Plan Review must ensure Neighbourhood Plans are accounted for.
Local		
Mid Sussex Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan (2013)	The document lists 4 specific objectives for economic development in the District and states how the Council will assist in meeting these aims. The document highlights how the Council will assist in achieving the aims of the plan, including through the planning system.	The document highlights how the Council will assist in achieving the aims of the plan, including through the planning system.

Mid Sussex Employment Land Review (2009 and 2010)	This document provides an up to date assessment of the supply of and demand for employment land and floorspace in Mid Sussex.	This is an important part of the evidence base for the setting of the vision, objectives and policy on economic development.
Mid Sussex Retail Study (2014)	The key objectives of this study are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish the vitality and viability of the retail centres in the District; and • To provide a robust assessment of current and projected retail needs for the period to 2026. 	This is an important part of the evidence base for the setting of the vision, objectives and policy on retail development.

Constraints, conflicts and challenges

There are no obvious constraints or conflicts between the economic and employment related plans or policies. However, at a national level there is a strong desire to utilise previously developed land first for new employment facilities. This is also the case for new housing development and therefore there could be a conflict between developing previously developed sites for housing or employment, especially given that there is only a limited amount of previously developed land within the District.

Similar to the need for new housing, the need the new employment facilities will have to balance the need to protect the environment of the District.

Promoting Good Governance

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the Site Allocations DPD
National		
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Requires all local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This sets out how the local community and stakeholders can get involved in the planning process with particular attention given to community involvement in the preparation of Local Development Documents (LDD).	The Local Planning Authority is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement to accompany certain planning documents.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - 2019	Sets out the Government's priorities for planning in England, and contains a general assumption in favour of sustainable development.	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF.

Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)	Provides further guidance to support the NPPF	The District Plan Review must be in conformity with the NPPF and therefore must heed the guidance set out in the NPPG.
Localism Act 2011	Act that decentralises power as far as possible from central government to individuals, communities and councils. Introduces neighbourhood planning, amongst other key measures. The Localism Act 2011 was given Royal Assent on 15 th November 2011.	The District Plan Review must ensure Neighbourhood Plans are accounted for.
Local		
Mid Sussex District Council – Statement of Community Involvement (2019)	Sets out how the Council will engage with the public in the preparation and adoption of Development Plan Documents. To reflect the varying nature of the Development Plan Documents, different techniques are being used for each document to ensure that the appropriate engagement occurs.	The production of the District Plan Review has and will need to have regard to the community engagement methods for Development Plan Documents contained within this document.

Constraints, conflicts and challenges

There are no constraints or conflicts between the good governance plans or policies.

Using Sound Science Responsibly

Name of document	Broad aims/ relevant policies	Requirements of the document in relation to the Site Allocations DPD
International		
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – Principle 15: Precautionary Principle (1992)	In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.	The District Plan Review will have regard to the precautionary principle to ensure irreversible environmental damage is avoided in the district and surrounding area.

Constraints, conflicts and challenges

There are no constraints or conflicts between the using sound science responsibly plans or policies.

Neighbouring authorities

Authority	Adopted Local Plan	Date of adoption
Adur District Council	Adur Local Plan 2017	December 2017
Arun District Council	Arun Local Plan	July 2018
Brighton and Hove City Council	Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One Brighton & Hove City Council's Development Plan	March 2016
Chichester District Council	Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies	July 2015
Crawley Borough Council	Crawley Borough Local Plan	December 2015
Horsham District Council	Horsham District Planning Framework	November 2015
Lewes District Council	Lewes District Local Plan Part 1 Joint Core Strategy	May 2016
Sevenoaks District Council	Core Strategy	February 2011
South Downs National Park	South Downs Local Plan	July 2019
Tandridge District Council	Tandridge District Core Strategy	October 2008
Tunbridge Wells District Council	Core Strategy	June 2010
Wealden District Council	Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan	February 2013
Worthing Borough Council	Worthing Core Strategy	April 2011