

# MID-SUSSEX DISTRICT PLAN (2021-2039 INQUIRY)

Examination Hearings on 24th February -27th March 2026

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION Conforming to the Guidance Notes set out by PLANNING INSPECTOR J BORE MRTPI

## 1. SOUNDNESS

The Plan is considered largely 'sound' apart from objections below and a lack of modelling and evaluation of alternative scenarios of economic, political and social change, normally required in any planning exercise.

## 2. MATTERS & ISSUES Matters 1-6

### HOUSING (1-3)

The provision for housing was estimated before the current high wave of immigration. The Government raised that requirement, I submit, on the immigration numbers. The Government has now pledged to reduce immigration. Therefore, the requirement should be revised down. For growth, the '*Strategy for the South East 1976 Review*' (by the Department of the Environment and the South London & SE Regional Planning Councils) designated Growth Areas where new housing is more economically accommodated in New Towns of 50-100,000 people, rather than spread over the countryside (see graph attached).

### BUSINESS & INDUSTRIAL NEEDS (4)

Business and industrial needs are planned to be provided for in the 6 Growth Areas in the South East such as Crawley-Gatwick, designated in the '*Strategy for the South East*'. which remains the long term strategy for the Region. Deviating from it may waste infrastructure investment. Growth Areas also reap economies of scale and communications, whereas businesses distributed across the Region where there is no spare capacity cause extra capital expenditure the country cannot afford.

### SPATIAL STRATEGY (5)

Countryside Protection is endangered by the new freedom for developers to exploit cheap farmland which should be reserved for farming in the National interest, given the uncertainty of international conflicts causing embargoes on imports, scarcity and rising food prices. Urban developments in the countryside also destroy the appearance, character and amenity of the countryside. Several developments such as on Huntsland Farm abrogate these conditions (see previous Submission to the Planning Inspector).

Site selection (6) is opaque and should be more responsive to public consultation.

These points and objections need attention.

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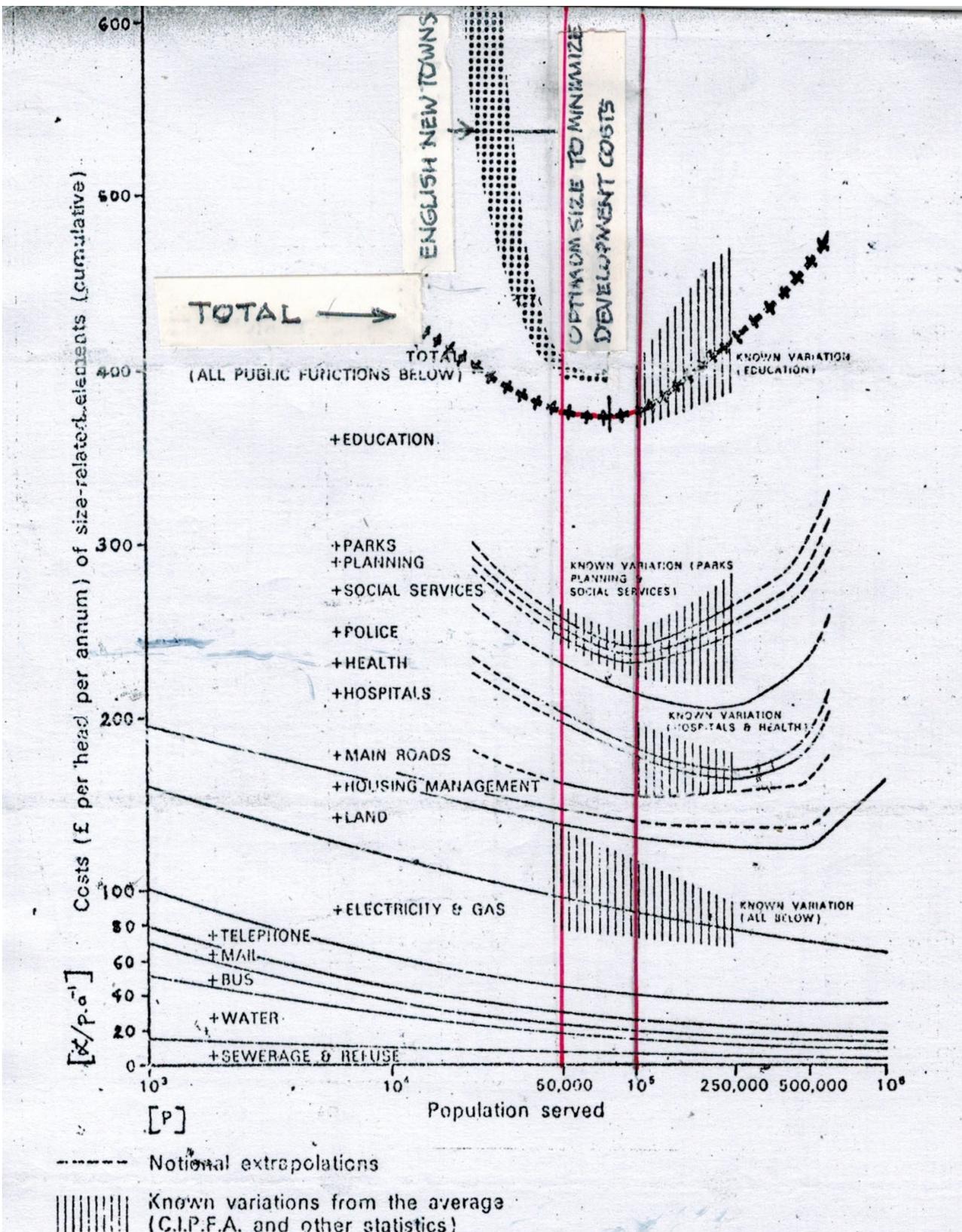


FIG.7.A.11 ANNUAL EXPENDITURE BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES WITH AND WITHOUT NEW TOWNS v POPULATION

Source; Thring, J. (1976) 'Costs of New Town Development' DoE.