

Dear Sirs

We have been asked to resubmit our previous objections to the Mid Sussex District Plan. Our original objections still stand (please see note below)

As an addendum, we have reviewed the MS-TP3: Employment report just published and find assertions about local employment growth to be wildly optimistic and naive. Given that the availability of local employment is a key assumption underlying the "sustainability" of the development plan, the review must clearly assess the likelihood that the employment assumptions are achievable. We believe that all evidence is that they are not achievable over the plan period.

One key example is in paras 3.14 and 3.15: There is mention of the "huge potential" in quantum computing employment, seemingly on the basis of a single local company involved in the sector (paras 3.14 / 3.15). This seems incredibly naive, as the sector is globally competitive with massive investments at scale in numerous geographies. And as with most startups and emerging technologies, there may well be huge potential, however the reality is that the vast majority of early leaders will fail. This is why the venture funds which invest in early stage technologies take a portfolio approach, with the expectation that only 10 to 20% of their investments will in fact be successful.

Additionally, while an ambition to create a science and technology park is admirable, the reality is that success at scale (a) takes a long time ("Silicon Glen" in Scotland took 40+ years, "Silicon Roundabout" in London required 20+ years and considerable government incentives, and even the Cambridge Science park took 15+ years to become properly established) and (b) targeted and meaningful financial incentives. One example company in a nascent tech area is a long way from having a solid employment base. Given the time it would take to be successful in growing this type of employment hub, assuming the plan is a success, people moving into Sayers Common will need somewhere to work in the meantime, and Brighton, Crawley and most importantly probably London would be the only large sources of jobs.

Yours faithfully

Mr and Mrs B E Taggart