

MID SUSSEX
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statement of Common Ground

**Transport: Mid Sussex District Council
(MSDC) & West Sussex County Council
(WSCC)**

September 2024

1. List of parties involved

Mid Sussex District Council
West Sussex County Council

2. Signatories



Date: 27 September 2024
Mid Sussex District Council
Ann Biggs – Assistant Director for Planning and Sustainable Economy

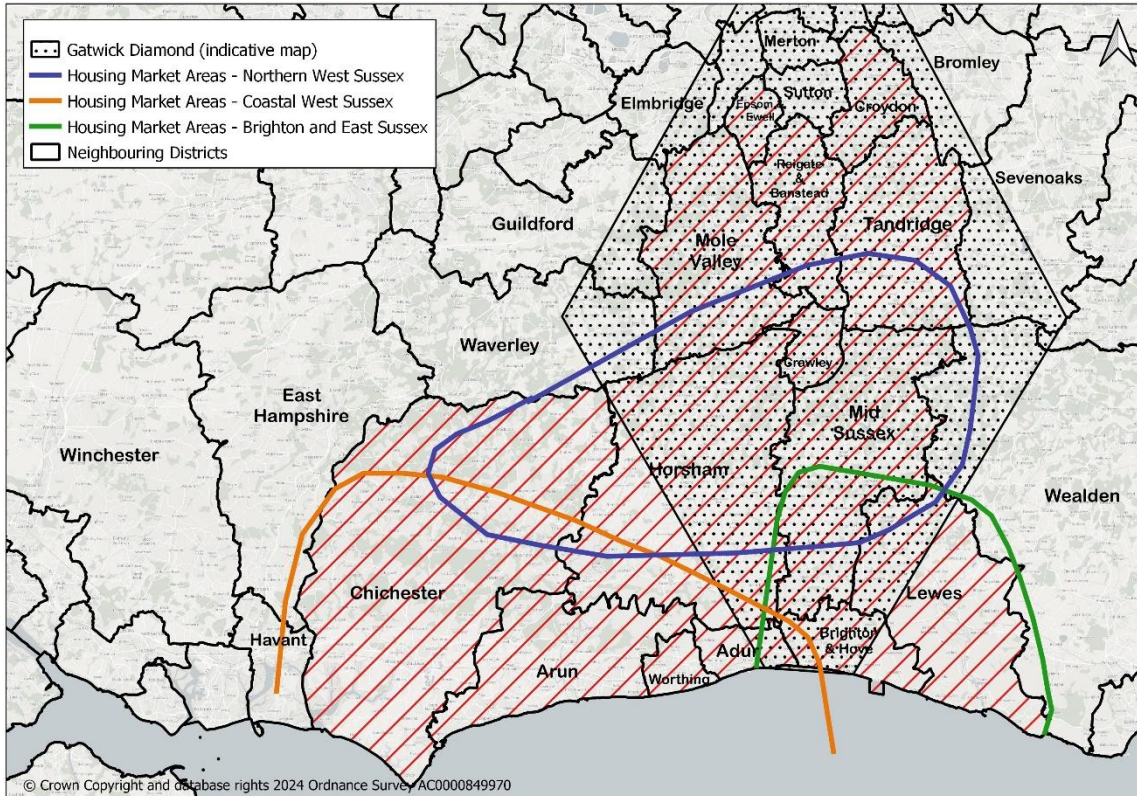


Date: 30 September 2024
West Sussex County Council
Michael Elkington, Head of Planning Services

3. Strategic Geography

Mid Sussex district is situated within the county of West Sussex and adjoins Surrey to the north (Tandridge District Council) and East Sussex (Wealden and Lewes District Councils) to the east. Crawley Borough Council and Horsham District Council are neighbouring authorities within West Sussex County, and Mid Sussex also shares a boundary with Brighton and Hove City to the south.

MSDC is one of the local authorities that make up the Greater Brighton City Region, along with Arun, Worthing, Adur, Crawley, Lewes, and Brighton & Hove. MSDC is a member of the West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board. Mid Sussex is also one of the districts in the Gatwick Diamond – a business-led initiative to attract jobs and investment to the area.



4. Strategic Matters

The parties agree:

1. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) have informed and validated development of the Mid Sussex Strategic Transport Model and subsequent strategic and local junction modelling which is in line with standard good practice as set out in the Department for Transport's (DfT) transport analysis guidance (TAG)
2. There has been effective ongoing engagement between the parties during the preparation of the transport model including sign-off of the methodology, calibration, and discussion of results at each stage.
3. During July 2024 West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) agreed a Memorandum of Understanding which set out the agreed position at that time.
4. Since July, further evidence has been produced by the Council's transport consultant's Systra and shared with WSCC and further meetings have been held between the parties.

5. Modifications will be made to policies in the Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) in response to the County Council representations and to reflect the further technical work that has taken place.

Further Evidence

6. **Highway Safety Study** – progress is continuing to determine highway safety impacts arising from the emerging Local Plan development. Five locations have been identified for mitigation as part of the safety study work and designs and associated costings have been prepared. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is being updated to reflect these costs and the costs have been apportioned and tested through the updated Viability Study work. The five locations identified for mitigation are:

- Cuckfield Road / Gatehouse Lane / Bishopstone Lane
- A281 / B2117 / Shaves Wood Lane
- Sussex / Franklynn Road / South Road Roundabout
- B2036 London Road / Victoria Way
- A23 / A272 Southbound Off-slip

7. **Scenario 6 ('core' Scenario)** - progress is continuing on this work. The current conclusions are that three severe impacts remain on the WSCC network. These locations are:

- B2110 / B2028 Turners Hill
- A272 / B2036 Ansty
- A273 / B2116 Hassocks (Stonepound)

It is understood, however, that the extent of the exceedance of the agreed threshold for severe is not that great and there is a reasonable prospect of a solution emerging. To understand further, and to quantify the extent of the exceedance of the agreed threshold for severe, sensitivity testing is being undertaken at the three severe impact junctions, taking into account changes to observed flows since the model validation year of 2019.

It is agreed that the solution and mitigation will focus on improving safety and active travel in these locations to reduce traffic passing through the severely impacted locations (rather than increasing junction capacity) and the impacts of other users. This is due to a combination of physical and environmental constraints as well as the position of the roads passing through these junctions in the County Council's network hierarchy i.e. not on the county's SRN. Mitigation will be through a combination of a reduction of overall vehicular traffic alongside encouraging diversion of longer trips onto more strategic highway routes. Changes or additions to the transport mitigation strategy are anticipated to result in a need to further update the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) once this work is completed and new designs are available.

In addition to this, work with the three significant site promoters (1000+ homes) has been ongoing on development of their mobility strategies / sustainable travel measures which is a key element of the mitigation and will assist in ensuring that there is a vision led approach and the sustainable communities minimise external travel demands.

8. **Proposed Modifications to the Plan** – The Council is proposing Main Modifications references M52, M53, M54 and M128 and updates to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to address the representation received from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) during the Regulation 19 consultation. These Main Modifications are in relation to a 'monitor and manage' approach. It has been agreed with West Sussex County Council, that where necessary, a 'monitor and manage' approach will be used to monitor the actual demand on the network and the requirements of the schemes and to set out that the Council will convene a (nominally titled) Transport Infrastructure Management Group (TIMG) (which include West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and NH (as appropriate) to keep the effectiveness, deliverability and phasing of the transport infrastructure projects required to deliver the District Plan strategy under review, as part of a 'monitor and manage' process. The parties will work together to draft Terms of Reference and a Methodology for the TIMG.

In addition, the Council is proposing Main Modifications references M55 and M58 and updates to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to further address the representation received from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) during the Regulation 19 consultation in respect of

requirements for provision of active travel infrastructure to ensure that effective improvements can be made where existing provision does not meet user needs.

5. Governance Arrangements

The parties are committed to working positively together, sharing information and best practice throughout the plan preparation phase and beyond.

In terms of governance, the parties agree:

1. They have engaged on an ongoing basis throughout preparation of the District Plan Review and consider that the Duty to Cooperate has been met.
2. The parties will continue to work together on transport issues affecting their respective areas of interest.
3. The parties have worked collaboratively on plan preparation and evidence and will continue to do so.
4. The parties will update this SoCG when necessary, as progress continues towards the adoption of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039.

6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

LPA	Present Plan Adoption	Proposed Plan Review Date	Regulation 18 Date	Regulation 19 Date	Submission Date
Mid Sussex District Plan	March 2018	2022-2024	November 2022	January 2024	July 2024