

MSDC response to Action Point AP-016

Action Point AP-016

Council to work with National Highways and West Sussex County Council to produce a realistic timetable setting out when the work will be completed which will be clear how, if, and how much it will cost to overcome the remaining transport concerns within the Statement of Common Ground between National Highways and the Council.

1. Following the Examination hearings, the Council and its transport consultant Systra has had four meetings with National Highways. These took place on the following dates: 8th November 2024, 20th November 2024, 2nd December 2024 and 5th December 2024. The purpose of the meetings has been to understand further the work required to overcome the remaining transport concerns set out within the Statement of Common Ground and to collaboratively agree a way forward.
2. The Statement of Common Ground identified seven locations that National Highways considered mitigation may be required. The Merge Diverge Assessment [T11] considered potential mitigations at these locations.
3. Through these meetings, it has been agreed with National Highways that the Monitor and Manage approach, which is being proposed in the District Plan, is the primary mechanism to be used in demonstrating that any impacts arising from development within the District Plan can be managed satisfactorily.
4. The Council and National Highways endorse the Monitor and Manage approach as the primary mechanism for the following reasons:
 - There is an element of uncertainty as to what the forecast level of traffic generation would be in five years time. Current modelling uses a 2019 base and therefore may be an over-estimate given changes in driver behaviours since this date and moving forwards – particularly as a result of Covid-19. Monitor and Manage would ensure updated data could be taken into account, which may negate the need to commit to physical intervention at this early stage.
 - National Highways recognise that very limited development is projected to come forwards in the first five years of the Plan, therefore, at the planning application stage the position is likely to have changed; and

- Due to the development trajectory, should any physical interventions on the network be required (as a fallback to Monitor and Manage) these would not be until the latter part of the Plan period (estimated 2037 onwards).
5. The Council has already proposed Main Modifications to the Plan to strengthen its focus on Monitor and Manage and is happy to include further modifications if required. As a result, no further work to identify physical interventions/costings to the seven locations is required to overcome National Highways concerns in principle.
 6. To ensure successful implementation of the Monitor and Manage approach, it has been agreed with National Highways that the Council is to expediate setting up a Transport Infrastructure Management Group (TIMG). Therefore, the Council has agreed to start this process in January 2025 through identifying stakeholders, drafting and agreeing Terms of Reference / Memorandums of Understanding and holding first meetings etc.
 7. A Position Statement between the Council and National Highways is being prepared which sets out the above in more detail. It will be submitted to the Inspector as soon as it is agreed.

AP-016
December 2024

From: Marius Pieters <>nationalhighways.co.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2024 14:50
To: Kathryn Banks
Cc: Mike Howell; Andrew Marsh; Alice Henstock
Subject: RE: Mid Sussex Local Plan - Action Point response

I can confirm that we are content with the information contained therein.

Many thanks

Best Regards

Marius Pieters, (he/him) Spatial Planning Manager
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For information about our engagement with the planning system please visit <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/>

From: Kathryn Banks <Kathryn.Banks@midsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2024 14:03
To: Marius Pieters <>@nationalhighways.co.uk>
Cc: <>; Andrew Marsh <Andrew.Marsh@midsussex.gov.uk>; Alice Henstock <Alice.Henstock@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Mid Sussex Local Plan - Action Point response

Marius,

Please find attached the updated response to the Action Point AP-0176.

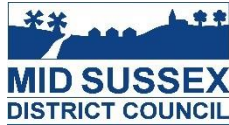
Please can you confirm you are happy with it, so we can action it today.

Kind regards,

Kathryn

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