

S511 – Examination of Mid Sussex District Plan

Response to Inspector’s Matters, Issues, and Questions 52 to 56.

On behalf of Thakeham Homes

24th September 2024

Regulation 19 Response IDs:

- 1189800
- 1191281
- 1187538
- 1187734
- 1191000
- 1191190
- 1191219
- 1191735

Please see below for some brief comments with regard to questions 52 to 56 raised by the Inspector.

52. How has the preparation of the Plan and its policies been informed by paragraphs 159 to 165 of the Framework?

With regard to paragraphs 159 and 160, the Plan has been informed by the Mid Sussex District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which considers the effects of climate change. Draft policy DPS4 includes text on future (flood) risk and making development proposals safe for their lifetime.

Paragraphs 161 – 165 are addressed by draft policy DPS3. The Sustainability Appraisal suitably considers “energy” and “climate change”. We also note there is a Net Zero evidence base document (document reference ENV3) and Sustainable Energy Study (document reference ENV4).

53. Have the strategic policies of the Plan as submitted, including the Plan’s spatial strategy; identification of sites as Sustainable Communities; and other smaller housing sites been supported by up-to-date strategic flood risk assessments, including a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment?

Level 1 and 2 SFRA’s dated August 2024 (document references ENV12 and ENV15 respectively) and a Flood Risk Sequential Test and Exceptions Test document (document reference ENV12) all form part of the evidence base for the 2021-2039 District Plan.

54. What is the relevance of the geology of the district to flood risk including its mitigation?

Geology is relevant in assessing flood risk as it influences both above and below ground hydrology (broadly categorisable as surface and groundwater hydrology). The geology of the area is discussed in the Level 1 and 2 SFRAs.

55. Are all of the relevant policies within the Plan consistent with national policy?

Policies are consistent with national policy.

56. Are any main modifications necessary for soundness, if so, why?

We would not suggest any modifications are necessary with regards to flood risk and surface water management.