

MID SUSSEX
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statement of Common Ground

Transport: MSDC & East Sussex
County Council (ESCC)

August 2024

1. List of parties involved

Mid Sussex District Council (WSCC)
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)

2. Signatories

Date: 14 August 2024

Mid Sussex District Council



Ann Biggs – Assistant Director for Planning and Sustainable Economy

Date: 14 August 2024

East Sussex County Council



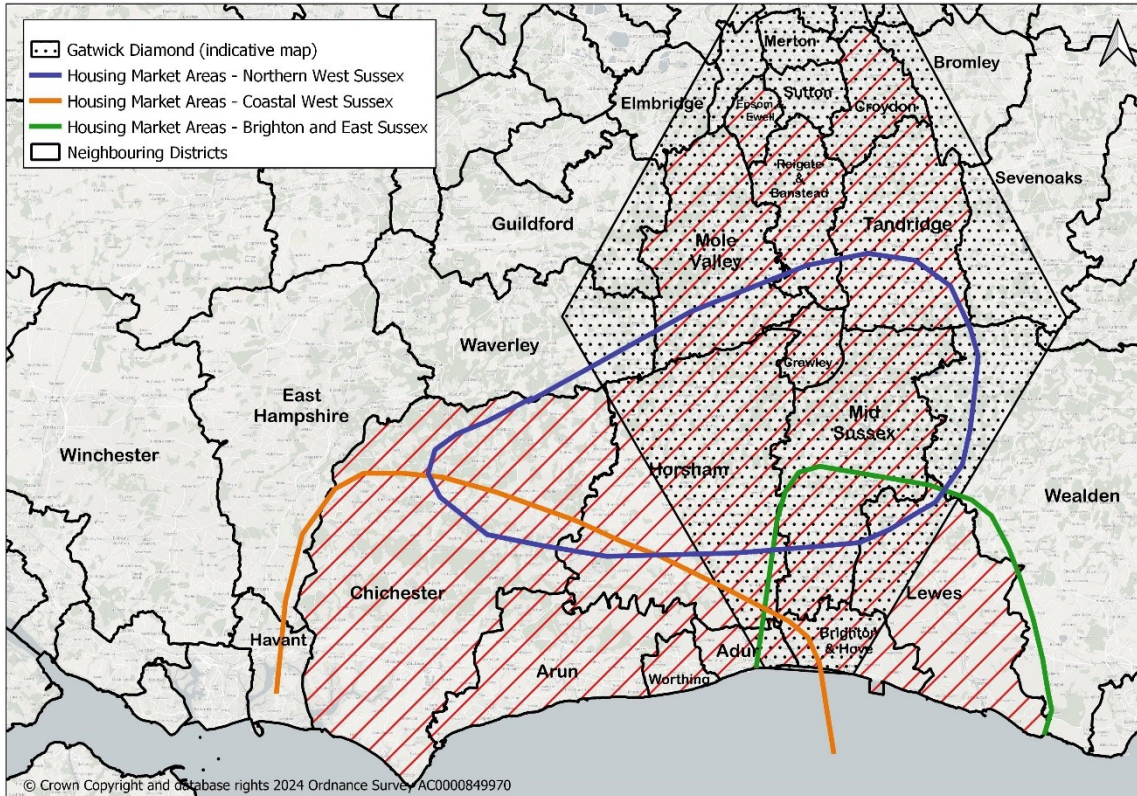
Jon Wheeler

Team Manager, Infrastructure Planning & Place

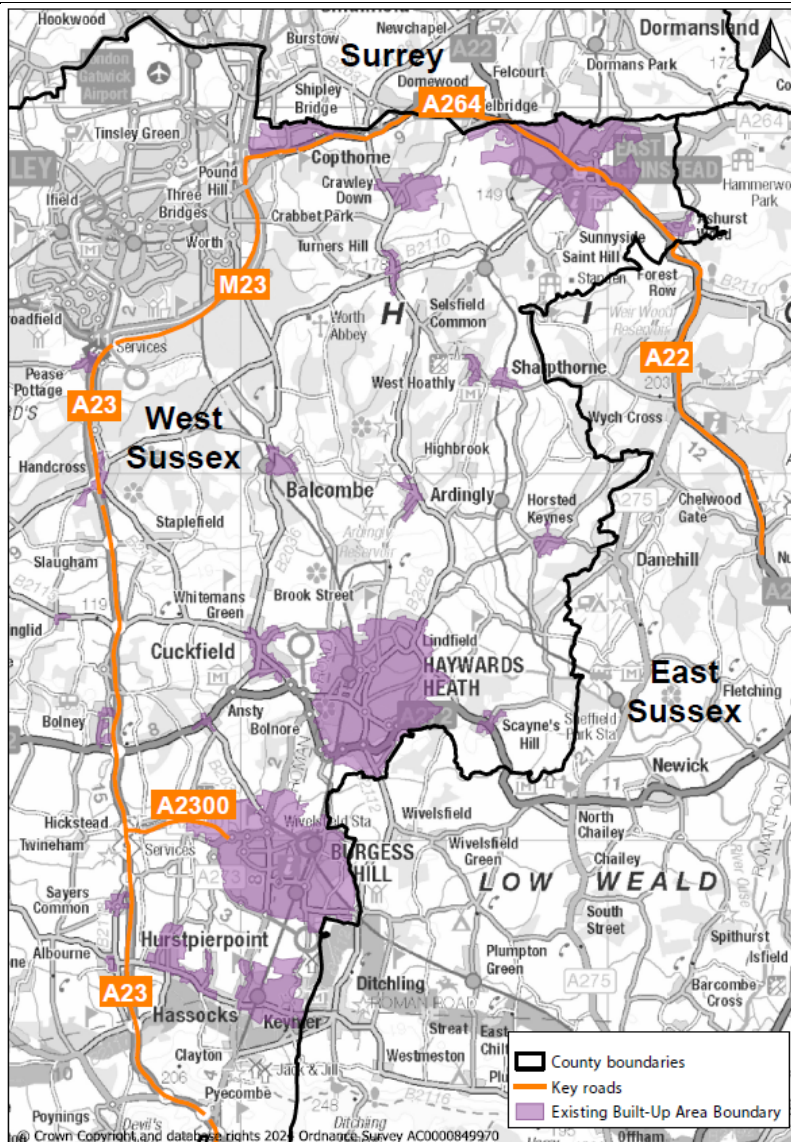
3. Strategic Geography

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). 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.



As can be seen from the map below, East Sussex County Council administrative area is close to the three largest settlements within Mid Sussex. The road network which crosses between the two areas is predominantly made up of minor B classified roads , with the exception of the A272 which borders Haywards Heath and the A22 and A264 which travel through East Grinstead in the north.



4. Strategic Matters

The following strategic and cross-boundary transport matters have been identified:

- Cross-boundary impacts of planned growth on the network, including the A23/M23, A23/A2300 and the A22/A264.
- Severe or significant impact on junctions affecting traffic flows in adjoining local authority areas.

The parties agree:

1. The Mid Sussex Transport Study considers the impacts of District Plan scenarios on the local and strategic road network. The Mid Sussex Strategic Highway Model (MSSHM) was produced in accordance with standard good practice as set out in the Department for Transport's (DfT)

transport analysis guidance (TAG), and in consultation with West Sussex County Council (WSSC).

2. The impacts on the highway network of the agreed development scenarios have been assessed based on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) using criteria agreed by MSDC and WSSC.
3. At Regulation 18 stage, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) raised the matter of potential cross-boundary impacts arising from existing and planned growth in Mid Sussex under the adopted Local Plan and Site Allocations DPD (Sites DPD), highlighting particular concern around impacts on the B2112 through Ditchling. The ESCC representation goes on to highlight the importance of securing certainty around timely delivery of planned mitigation at the A23/A2300 Hickstead junction identified as part of the Sites DPD package of mitigation.
4. ESCC highlight that further growth planned at Burgess Hill, Sayers Common and Haywards Heath cumulatively has the potential, without proper mitigation, to impact the East Sussex network. ESCC requested further information to better understand the forecast levels of traffic growth across the boundary.
5. In response, Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) commissioned further evidence to share with ESCC (April 2024) on a series of links and flow changes between the Reference Case and 'do something' scenarios (5m2 and 5m4). ESCC has reviewed this information and noted the conclusions.
6. The Mid Sussex Transport Study concludes there are no cross-boundary 'severely' impacted locations arising from planned growth in the emerging Mid Sussex Local Plan in the 'do something' scenario. Necessary highway mitigation, as defined by the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, will be secured through the planning application process and timely delivery will be managed through the Transport Mitigation Management Group, to which ESCC will be invited to contribute on cross-boundary matters. Where appropriate, consideration will also need to be given to developments planned for within emerging Local Plans in East Sussex (in particular, the Lewes LP and Wealden LP) and where there is an identified need to provide a package of measures to ensure that cumulative cross boundary impacts on the transport network are mitigated.
7. The parties will continue to work together to agree the outcomes of transport modelling and securing necessary sustainable and highway mitigation packages that may be required.

5. Governance Arrangements

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 strategic 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 meet at member and officer level to review emerging evidence and respond to new issues and changing circumstances as appropriate.
5. 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 | Target Submission Date |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mid Sussex District Plan | March 2018 | 2022-2024 | November 2022 | January 2024 | Summer 2024 |