

**Contact:**

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**Date:**

8 July 2024

Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing and Communities  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

**Mid Sussex District Plan 2021 - 2039**

It is with great pleasure that after considerable work I enclose a copy of our proposed Mid Sussex District Plan 2021 – 2039 for examination, along with supporting evidence and the representations received during public consultation.

Mid Sussex District Council takes its plan-making responsibilities seriously. The Council adopted its District Plan 2014 – 2031 in March 2018. This Plan sets out a strategy for growth to meet its housing, employment, retail and community needs in full as well as assisting neighbouring authorities to meet their housing needs.

As required by the adopted District Plan, the Council adopted a Site Allocations Development Plan Document in 2022. As a result, the Council has maintained a healthy supply of housing and employment land. The annual Housing Delivery Test has consistently been in excess of 100%. We are proud to have maintained (and successfully defended at appeal) a 5-year housing land supply since 2018.

The Council embarked on reviewing the District Plan in 2021. The reviewed District Plan continues to plan positively for growth whilst respecting the unique characteristics that make Mid Sussex an attractive place to live and work. The district is largely rural, 50% is within the High Weald National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and 10% in the South Downs National Park. The Council is proposing a plan strategy that respects these characteristics whilst achieving sustainable growth to meet our housing need. This has included maximising development on brownfield land, a robust Site Selection process (in accordance with the NPPF) to promote the most suitable and sustainable sites for allocation and setting strong policy requirements to ensure high levels of sustainability.

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*Working together for a better Mid Sussex*

Councillor Robert Eggleston  
Leader of the Council



Local residents recognise the need for housing and central to the plan making process has been their concerns that appropriate levels of infrastructure are delivered to support the sustainable development of the district. We have worked hard with all our town and parish councils, the County Council, National Highways and other relevant organisations to identify and secure the infrastructure required across Mid Sussex to support planned growth.

On behalf of the Council, who overwhelmingly supported the Plan, I am proud to be submitting a Plan which will continue to meet the district's needs, provides an over-supply which can potentially assist neighbouring authorities and secures sustainable growth supported by much needed infrastructure. This has been a key outcome from the positive engagement the Council has had with its neighbours and other bodies as part of our responsibilities under the Duty to Co-Operate.

We urge the Planning Inspectorate to look favourably on the Mid Sussex District Plan as a genuine example of how to meet the challenges of the NPPF to plan positively for sustainable growth to meet the needs and aspirations of our communities.

Yours faithfully,



Councillor Robert Eggleston  
Leader of the Council