

Examination of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039

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Dear Mr Marsh,

Inspector's Initial Response

I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the soundness of the Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039 (the Plan), which was submitted on 10 July 2024.

I now have had the opportunity to consider the submitted documents, including the representations made as a result of public consultation. I note that there are some gaps in the evidence base and that there are some outstanding Statements of Common Ground. I would like these to be provided as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I am progressing with the production of Matters Issues and Questions. My approach is likely to be that the examination will be in two stages. This is because from my initial consideration of the Plan I have identified that there are some fundamental issues that need testing, such as legal compliance matters including the Duty to Cooperate; the appropriateness of the overall development strategy of the Plan; flood risk; housing need and transport matters.

I hope to move forward with Stage 1 hearing sessions starting in October. Charlotte Glancy, the Programme Officer, will work with you to find appropriate dates. Please note that the Council will need to give at least 6 weeks' notice before the start of the first hearing.

I note that some main modifications have been tabled which I understand have not been subject to public consultation. They are useful as an indicator of where the Council considers main modifications could be made to make the Plan sound. However, my remit is to consider the Plan as submitted and I will be examining the Plan on that basis.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Programme Officer.

Louise Nurser

Inspector

7 August 2024