Wealden
District Council

Authority Monitoring Report 2023/2024

December 2024

How to Contact Us

Planning Policy

Wealden District Council

Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2AX

Telephone: 01892 602008

Email: planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk

Website: www.wealden.gov.uk

If you, or somebody you know, would like the information contained in this document in large print or in another language please contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or info@wealden.gov.uk

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1.0 Introduction

Nature and Purpose of Document

1.1 The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) details Wealden District Council's progress in developing, adopting and implementing local planning policies within Wealden District. National planning regulations[1] require AMRs to contain information on a range of matters that includes:

- progress made with regards to the preparation of planning documents detailed in the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS);
- details of cooperation undertaken with neighbouring local planning authorities, the County Council and other statutory bodies in line with the duty to cooperate process;
- the delivery of housing (including affordable housing) over time;
- details of any neighbourhood development plans or orders made by the Council;
- monitoring for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) during the monitoring period[2]; and
- the progress of the statutory development plan policies against key policy indicators.

1.2 This AMR covers the period from the 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, although in some cases, a 'commentary' is provided to cover the period beyond the end date of 31 March 2024, where this is considered appropriate. This AMR assesses the eleventh year of the implementation of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan[3] (adopted in February 2013).

1.3 The Council's five-year housing land supply position and housing trajectory position are addressed in the Council's Five-Year Housing Land Supply Statement[4] that was updated as of 1 April 2024. Whilst CIL income and expenditure does form a separate chapter of this document, it should be noted that the monitoring information for the 2023/24 period will be found within the Council's latest Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS)[5].

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[1] Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (regulation 34)

[2] As prescribed by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019

[3] Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan, February 2013

[4] Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement – 1 April 2024

[5] Wealden's Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) 2023-24, December 2024

1.4 Wealden District Council intends to continue its monitoring framework and reporting arrangements on an 'at least' annual basis, to make relevant information available to the public.

Structure of the AMR

1.5 The remainder of this AMR is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** – This section outlines the progress made with documents detailed in the Council's latest Local Development Scheme[6] (LDS).
- **Section 3** – This section outlines details of cooperation undertaken with neighbouring local planning authorities, County Councils and other statutory bodies in line with the duty to cooperate mechanism, which was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and is set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2023).
- **Section 4** – This section outlines progression for neighbourhood planning within Wealden District and the details of any neighbourhood plans or development orders made by the Council during the monitoring period.
- **Section 5** – This section relates to CIL monitoring during the 2023/24 monitoring period and where this information is now located.
- **Section 6** – This final section relates to monitoring of adopted planning policies (through the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan monitoring framework that was adopted in 2013) and provides a summary of progress towards each policy monitoring indicator where this can be provided.

[6] The latest Local Development Scheme (LDS) was updated and published by Wealden District Council in January 2024 .

2.0 Progress against the Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Wealden's Statutory Development Plan

2.1 The Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted in February 2013 and is the overarching planning policy document for Wealden District.

2.2 The Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013) replaces the following saved policies in the Wealden Local Plan (1998):

- HG2 - Affordable Housing on New Development; and
- HG3 - Affordable Housing Exceptions Policy.

2.3 The other saved policies remain in place and are highlighted in Appendix 2 of this AMR. The 'saved' policies of the Wealden Local Plan[7] (1998) remain a material planning consideration in so far as they do not conflict with the NPPF[8].

2.4 The Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan[9] (2016) supersedes the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan with respect to Policy WCS8: Affordable Housing and the associated text in paragraphs 7.10 to 7.14 of that document.

Local Development Scheme

2.5 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the Council's timetable for preparing planning documents based over a three-year period. National planning legislation[10] requires all local planning authorities to prepare and maintain an LDS where it is producing a Development Plan Document (DPD), such as a Local Plan, for its area. The main purpose of the LDS is as follows:

- to inform the public and stakeholders of the documents that will make up the 'Local Plan'; and
- set out the geographical area each plan will cover; and
- set out the timescale for the production or review of each DPD.

2.6 The Council's LDS[11] was updated and published within the 2023/24 reporting period (January 2024) and covers the period from 2024 to 2027. During the monitoring period, work has considerably progressed on Wealden District Council's Draft Local Plan, which will shape the district's places, plan and manage growth and infrastructure, and guide development in the district in future years. It was agreed at an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on

[7] Wealden Local Plan (1998)

[8] See paragraph 225 of the NPPF for guidance on this matter.

[9] Wealden District Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan (May, 2016)

[10] Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

[11] Wealden District Council Local Development Scheme (LDS), January 2024

Thursday 8 February 2024 that a consultation would take place on the Regulation 18 Draft Wealden Local Plan. This took place between Friday 15 March 2024 and Friday 10 May 2024, where the Council received an unprecedented number of representations (over 12,000 individual comments). These will be considered in formulation of the next stages of the new Local Plan.

2.7 The adopted LDS (January 2024) sets out a timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan, as well as the review of the CIL Charging Schedule. Progress against the current LDS timetable is provided in Table LDS1 and Table LDS2 below.

Table LDS1: Progress on preparation of Local Plan Timetable for Preparation

Title, subject matter and geographical area	Early Engagement Consultation	Local Plan Draft Consultation Regulation 18	Local Plan Submission Draft Regulation 19	Submission and Examination Regulation 22-25	Adoption and Publication Regulation 26
Wealden Local Plan District Wide Sets out the vision, strategic objectives and spatial development strategy for Wealden District. The plan will also identify site allocations for different land uses as well as seek to address climate change and protect the natural and built environment. It will provide context for neighbourhood plans.	Quarter 3 - Quarter 4 2020/2021 **Complete** ✓	Quarter 4 2023/24 – Quarter 1 2024/25. Starting in March 2024 **Complete** ✓	Quarter 4 2024/25 – Quarter 1 2025/26. **Uncertain (awaiting NPPF publication) – new LDS will be published in early 2025**	By 30th June 2025 By or before end of Quarter 3 2025/2026 **Uncertain (awaiting NPPF publication) – new LDS will be published in early 2025**	By or before end of Quarter 1 2026/27 **Uncertain (awaiting NPPF publication) – new LDS will be published in early 2025**

Monitoring Report 2023/2024 Progress Update
The publication of the draft Regulation 18 Local Plan[12] took place in March 2024, with public consultation taking place between 15 March and the 10 May 2024. This consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)[13], involving a number of public exhibition events being held across the district. The Council received an unprecedented number of representations, with over 12,000 comments made during this eight-week consultation period. Those representations are currently being reviewed and summarised, in order to identify the main issue raised through the consultation. These main issues will be considered at a future Local Plan Sub-Committee, anticipated in early 2025, and will inform the next stages of drafting the new Local Plan. Following the completion of the Local Plan public consultation in May 2024, the government announced proposed reforms to the NPPF[14] in July 2024. Like many other local authorities, the Council has responded to the government's consultation on the proposed changes to the NPPF[15]. The national planning policy proposals do consider the transitional arrangements for Local Plans under the current plan-making system and government states that they anticipate for these to be 'submitted for examination under the existing 2004 Act system no later than December 2026'. Given the consultation on national planning policy reform, and its associated implications, the Council cannot definitively state the impact on its timetable for the new Wealden Local Plan. However, work continues on the emerging Local Plan in the interim period. A new Local Development Scheme (LDS) would need to be agreed with Council Members should current timeframes alter, but this has not been revised at this stage, given the uncertainty around the proposed NPPF changes and specifically the transitionary arrangements.

[12] Draft Wealden Local Plan (Regulation 18), March 2024

[13] Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), July 2020

[14] Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system, MHCLG, July 2024

[15] Wealden District Council's Response to the 'Proposed reforms to the NPPF and other changes to the planning system' (September 2024).

Table LDS2: Progress on preparation of CIL charging schedule review Timetable for Preparation

Title, subject matter and geographical area	Evidence Gathering	Draft Charging Schedule Regulation 16	Submission of CIL Charging Schedule Regulation 19	Examination Regulation 21	Adoption and Publication Regulation 26
Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule Review District wide The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rates applicable to certain types of development that are liable to pay the levy. This review will consider whether the current CIL charging rates are appropriate and set new rates if required.	Up to end of Quarter 4 2024/25 **In progress**	Quarter 4 2024/25 – Quarter 1 2025/26 **Uncertain – new LDS will be published in early 2025**	By 30th June 2025 **Uncertain – new LDS will be published in early 2025**	By or before end of Quarter 3 2025/2026 **Uncertain – new LDS will be published in early 2025**	By or before end of Quarter 1 2026/27 **Uncertain – new LDS will be published in early 2025**

Monitoring Report 2023/24 Progress Update
During the monitoring year, the Council, as part of the review of its emerging Local Plan, has published a Whole Plan Viability Study[16] that has considered affordable housing levels in the district, other policies in the draft Regulation 18 Wealden Local Plan that affect development values (i.e. climate change mitigation and adaptation, design, housing mix etc), as well as the current CIL charging schedule that was implemented on 1 April 2016. This evidence base has considered whether there is a requirement to review the current CIL charging schedule and will align in terms of timetabling with the Council's emerging Local Plan. As set out in the LDS, the review of the existing CIL charging schedule will take place alongside the production of the Local Plan to ensure that infrastructure planning and the charging schedule are consistent with each other. CIL is a tool used by local authorities to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in its area. Further evidence on the 'funding gap' and viability will be required alongside the Draft CIL Charging Schedule. As set out above, there is uncertainty in terms of the timetable to progress the new Local Plan owing to the proposed national planning policy changes that are expected to be published shortly. As the CIL Charging Schedule needs to be aligned with the Local Plan, this may have knock on effects on the timetable for the review CIL Charging Schedule moving forward.

[16] Wealden Local Plan Viability Assessment and CIL Review, March 2024

3.0 Duty to Cooperate

3.1 Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) places a legal duty on local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to cooperate with each other on strategic planning matters and on cross boundary issues in so far as they are relevant to their administrative areas throughout the preparation of their local plans. The NPPF[17] reiterates this duty and requires an independent inspector to assess whether the DPD they are examining has been prepared in accordance with the duty-to-cooperate. It is a legal requirement where local authorities (and other statutory bodies) have worked together under the duty to cooperate process for the AMR to provide details of the action that has taken place during the reporting period (and beyond if appropriate).

Duty to Cooperate Groups

3.2 The duty to cooperate mechanism requires Wealden District Council to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis on strategic cross boundary issues with a wide range of other local authorities, both adjoining and further beyond the administrative boundaries of Wealden District and with the prescribed bodies. There are a number of groups through which Wealden District Council progresses this joint working. These are set out in table DtC1 below. These groups meet on a regular basis to discuss the requirements of each local authority/prescribed body, and more importantly, how these requirements may be met across the sub-region.

[17] Paragraphs 24-27 of the NPPF.

Table DtC1: Main Groups used to discuss Duty to Cooperate Issues

Group	Membership
Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Working Group Formed of planning officers and planning managers from the relevant local planning authorities. The main purpose of this group is for each local planning authority to update each other on their respective evidence base documents for the Ashdown Forest, the timetable for the adoption of their respective Local Plans, and the production of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) for the Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC).	Natural England, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Tandridge District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and Crawley Borough Council.
Ashdown Forest Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMs) Partnership A group consisting of planning officers from the relevant local planning authorities and Conservators of Ashdown Forest that meet to work on implementing the SAMMs strategy, which aims to limit the impact of visitors on the Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area (SPA).	Natural England, Wealden District Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Tandridge District Council, The Conservators of Ashdown Forest.
Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels Catchment Partnership The Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels Catchment is in East Sussex and includes the rural landscapes of the High and Low Weald to the north of the catchment and the South Downs to the south. The Partnership is focused on integrated catchment management and the delivery of the Water Framework Directive objectives to improve the quality of the environment at a local level. The catchment partnership is co-hosted by the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the South East Rivers Trust.	Environment Agency, Sussex Wildlife Trust, South East Rivers Trust, Wealden District Council, Cuckmere and Pevensey Water Level Management Board, Natural England, South East Water, Southern Water, South Downs National Park Authority, amongst others.
East Sussex Local Plan Managers Group	East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council, Lewes District Council, Eastbourne

Group	Membership
This group meets on a regular basis and primarily includes Local Plan managers from East Sussex, Brighton and Hove and the South Downs National Park. A standing agenda item is to update on the progress of Local Plans and Duty to Cooperate, but members discuss issues and share advice/knowledge on a range of subjects.	Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Rother District Council, Brighton and Hove City Council.
East Sussex Strategic Planning Members Group Following discussions at the East Sussex Chief Executives Group and East Sussex Leaders & Chief Executives Group in June and July 2013, the East Sussex Strategic Planning Members Group (ESSPMG) was established in order to progress the Duty to Cooperate. The primary activities of the group, in accordance with Duty to Cooperate and the Memorandum of Understanding, are to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis on strategic planning matters.	Wealden District Council, Lewes District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council. East Sussex County Council, the South Downs National Park Authority, Brighton and Hove City Council. Other authorities, such as Mid Sussex District Council, have also attended and contributed on invitation.
High Weald AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Officer Steering Group (OSG) A group consisting of planning officers from the relevant local planning authorities and the High Weald AONB unit, which meet to discuss planning issues that may impact the High Weald National Landscape. The High Weald National Landscape remains designated as AONB and is referred to as such in policy, legislation and guidance.	High Weald AONB Unit, Natural England, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Kent County Council, Surrey County Council, Wealden District Council, Rother District Council, Hastings Borough Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Horsham District Council, Crawley Borough Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Ashford Borough Council, Tonbridge and Malling District Council and Tandridge District Council.
Sussex Nature Partnership A voluntary partnership of over 30 organisations across East and West Sussex, including Brighton and Hove. Established to enable local stakeholders to work in	Over 30 organisations including Wealden District Council

Group	Membership
a strategic way to help manage the local environment and delivering multiple benefits for local residents, the economy and the environment.	
Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Working Group The Sussex LNRS Working group was set up following the establishment of the Environment Act 2021. The group consists of planning officers from across Sussex and other statutory bodies to consider the LNRS for East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. There will be one LNRS covering East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Wealden District Council is a supporting authority in this process.	East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, District and Borough Councils from both East and West Sussex, amongst other statutory bodies, including Natural England and the Environment Agency.
Team East Sussex Team East Sussex is the strategic advisory economic growth board for the County of East Sussex. Meetings are held on a regular basis to discuss strategic infrastructure, economic and housing issues across the sub-region. Wealden District Council also attends a number of TES subgroups such as Developers East Sussex (DES), Skills East Sussex (SES), Environment East Sussex and Culture East Sussex.	Includes relevant bodies from across East Sussex, consisting of businesses, local authorities (including Wealden), social enterprise and education representatives.

Duty to Cooperate Actions

3.3 This section of the document sets out the actions which have been undertaken by Wealden District Council as part of the duty to cooperate process both during the reporting year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) and beyond, where appropriate.

3.4 During the reporting period (2023/24) the Council has continued to work with relevant duty to cooperate partners to address strategic cross boundary issues and has held meetings with neighbouring planning authorities, as well as working jointly on a number of evidence base documents.

3.5 The following duty to cooperate actions have taken place during the 2023/24 reporting period:

- Wealden District Council published an Interim Duty to Cooperate Background Paper to support the Regulation 18 Wealden Local Plan in March 2024[18]. This summarises the cooperation and engagement between WDC, neighbouring authorities and other relevant authorities at that stage. It also outlines the membership of working groups and partnerships that WDC is involved with and summarises cross boundary strategic issues. Statements of Common Ground and Memorandums of Undertaking that have been completed prior to March 2024 are included as appendices.
- The Council has continued preparation work on the drafting of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with several other neighbouring local planning authorities. The most recent SoCG was signed with Mid-Sussex District Council in July 2024[19] in support of the submission of their Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in the same month.
- We have met with all neighbouring local planning authority counterparts (at officer level) to discuss the relevant strategic, cross boundary issues under the duty to cooperate process.
- Local authorities and other statutory consultees have been invited to respond to our Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal consultations and evidence base methodologies and presentations. Officers from WDC had invited and met with our neighbouring local planning authorities and statutory bodies to present the draft Regulation 18 Wealden Local Plan that was published in March 2024.
- The Council has responded to requests from neighbouring local authorities (and some that do not adjoin the district boundary) to consider taking their unmet development needs. This is documented within

[18] Wealden District Council Interim Duty to Cooperate Background Paper, March 2024

[19] Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with MSDC and WDC, July 2024

Wealden District Council's Interim Duty to Cooperate Background Paper.

- The Council is working with a number of infrastructure providers, including Southern Water, South East Water, ESCC and the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to consider growth in the district as part of the emerging Local Plan.
- The Council is also working with ESCC and all other local authorities in East Sussex on a countywide, integrated transport model to support all Local Plans in East Sussex.
- The Council is working with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to gain advice as part of a local authority forum that will include our neighbouring authorities to aid in effective joint working on strategic planning matters.
- The Wealden Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report[20] was published in November 2023. It was produced with input from ESCC, the Environment Agency and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board, and follows completion of the Level 1 SFRA in previous reporting periods.
- The Council is continuing to work with the Ashdown Forest Working Group regarding joint Air Quality Monitoring for the Ashdown Forest and also to agree an Ashdown Forest Transport Model for emerging Local Plans that affect the Ashdown Forest SAC.

3.6 In the current monitoring period (since 1 April 2024), the Council has met with all local authorities that adjoin the district to discuss duty to cooperate issues. This includes the following district and borough councils: Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Mid-Sussex District Council, Rother District Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Tandridge District Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the South Downs National Park Authority. We have also met with East Sussex County Council and Kent County Council[21].

3.7 Wealden District Council sent out letters in April 2024 (just after the reporting period) to each of the local authorities that adjoin WDC, outlining the unmet housing need in the district and asking whether they were in a position to assist in either meeting housing or employment needs and if possible, to identify how this could be delivered. These issues remain under review as part of the ongoing work to draft a new Local Plan, noting implications that may be raised as a result of any revised NPPF. The Council remains committed to engaging

[20] Wealden Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report, November 2023

[21] We had also invited Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council, but at this stage, there was no significant issues raised by either authority.

and working with neighbouring authorities to deliver planned growth in the district.

3.8 The following table provides a summary of the main cross boundary issues identified with our neighbouring local authority partners.

Table DtC2: Main Cross-Boundary Issues with Neighbouring Local Authorities

Local Authority	Main Cross-Boundary Strategic Issues
Eastbourne Borough Council	Housing Market Area (HMA); Objectively Assessed Housing Needs (OAN); Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA); transport and potential for off-line A27; Infrastructure including green infrastructure, Waste Water Treatment Works capacity; flood risk; Pevensey Levels, South Downs National Park, Ashdown Forest and development on the administrative boundary.
Lewes District Council	HMA; OAN; FEMA; Lewes Downs; South Downs National Park and the Ashdown Forest; Infrastructure including green infrastructure; potential for off-line A27.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	HMA; OAN; FEMA; Infrastructure including green infrastructure; landscape (in particular the High Weald National Landscape) and Ashdown Forest. Development on the administrative boundary.
Mid Sussex District Council	HMA; OAN; FEMA; Infrastructure including green infrastructure; the Ashdown Forest; the High Weald National Landscape.
Rother District Council	HMA; OAN; FEMA; Infrastructure including green infrastructure, Pevensey Levels, The High Weald National Landscape.
Sevenoaks District Council	HMA; OAN; FEMA; Infrastructure; Ashdown Forest; The High Weald National Landscape.
South Downs National Park Authority	OAN; infrastructure including green infrastructure and potential for off-line A27; Ashdown Forest; The South Downs National Park.
Tandridge District Council	OAN; Infrastructure; Ashdown Forest; The High Weald National Landscape
East Sussex County Council	Waste and minerals; education; transport; green infrastructure; SuDs; flood risk; Pevensey Levels and the Ashdown Forest.
West Sussex County Council	Waste and minerals; education; transport and Ashdown Forest
Kent County Council	Waste and minerals; education; transport and Ashdown Forest
Surrey County Council	Waste and minerals; education; transport and Ashdown Forest

4.0 Neighbourhood Planning

4.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and allows communities to prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs). National planning policy states that neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood area and can help to deliver sustainable development[22].

4.2 Neighbourhood planning is an opportunity for local people to fully engage in the future of their communities in a way that was not possible prior to the Localism Act 2011. Once a neighbourhood area is designated, Wealden District Council is legally required to provide support and advice to those bodies producing an NDP. Wealden District Council therefore offers officer advice and support on emerging NDPs within the district, as well as throughout the drafting process and the examination stage.

4.3 Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) are the local planning authorities for separate parts of the Wealden District. There are six parishes which cross into both the Wealden District and the South Downs National Park (SDNP) area; Alciston, Berwick, Long Man, Willingdon and Jevington, Polegate, and Selmeston. Wealden District Council and the SDNPA have agreed a joint protocol, setting out how they will work together on neighbourhood planning, particularly where the parish is administered by the two local planning authorities.

4.4 There are only three parishes which are wholly contained within the SDNP area; Alfriston, Cuckmere Valley, and East Dean and Friston. As a result of these Parishes falling outside of the WDC local planning authority area, information in this section of the AMR does not include data which relates to these three parishes.

4.5 Of the thirty-nine Parish/Town Councils that are located within the WDC local planning authority area, twelve had been designated as neighbourhood areas for the purposes of preparation of a NDP prior to the reporting period. Only Fletching Parish was designated during the reporting period, in August 2023. Hadlow Down Parish has also been designated as a Neighbourhood Area but only for the purposes of preparing a Community Right to Build Order[23]. Table NP1 below sets out the key stages for each of the thirteen designated neighbourhood areas and where they have reached in the preparation of their NDPs. The details include dates for each formal stage of NDP preparation, including beyond the reporting period where appropriate. All other Parish/Town Councils located within or partly within the WDC local planning authority area

[22] See paragraph 29 of the NPPF.

[23] Hadlow Down has not been included in table NP1 as the stages for preparing a Community Right to Build Order are different to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

have not been included in the list as they do not currently have a designated neighbourhood area.

Table NP1: Neighbourhood Planning Progress 2023/2024 (including actions in the current monitoring period).

Neighbourhood Area/Parish (excluding those wholly in SDNP)	Date of Designation Decision (Regulation 7)	Pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14)	Publicising a Plan Proposal (Regulation 16)	Submission of Plan Proposal to Examiner (Regulation 17)	Examiner's Report (Regulation 18)	Referendum	Making of plan (Regulation 19)
Crowborough[24]	5 June 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Hoathly with Halland	7 August 2017	31 January 2023 to 14 March 2023	8 January 2024 to 26 February 2024	March 2024	The Examiner's Final Report was published on 17 April 2024. It recommended that subject to modifications being made, the plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum held on 5 September 2024	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 16 October 2024.
Fletching	22 August 2023	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frant	25 April 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hailsham	27 August 2016	25 November 2017 to 26 January 2018	7 May 2019 to 18 June 2019	June 2019	The Examiners Final Report was published on 11 March 2020, where it was recommended that the Plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum (regrettably delayed by Covid-19) held on 6 May 2021.	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 21 July 2021.

[24] At a meeting of the Planning and Development committee of Crowborough Town Council on 17 February 2020, it was agreed that the committee could not recommend the authorisation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Crowborough. The committee agreed to re-visit the issue if there was a change in government policy.

Neighbourhood Area/Parish (excluding those wholly in SDNP)	Date of Designation Decision (Regulation 7)	Pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14)	Publicising a Plan Proposal (Regulation 16)	Submission of Plan Proposal to Examiner (Regulation 17)	Examiner's Report (Regulation 18)	Referendum	Making of plan (Regulation 19)
Hartfield	4 December 2013	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hellingly	13 November 2015	1 December 2017 to 26 January 2018	7 May 2019 to 18 June 2019	June 2019	The Examiners Final Report was published on 27 March 2020, where it was recommended that the Plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum (regrettably delayed by Covid-19) held on 6 May 2021.	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 21 July 2021.
Herstmonceux	6 February 2013	19 March 2017 to 19 May 2017	25 September 2017 to 6 November 2017	December 2017	The Examiners Final Report was published on the 6 February 2018, where it was recommended that the Plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum held on 3 May 2018.	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 24 July 2019.
Horam	6 November 2019	20 May 2023 to 3 July 2023	11 December 2023 to 6 February 2024	March 2024	The Examiner's Final Report was published on 12 July 2024, where it was recommended that subject to modifications, the plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum held on 26 September 2024	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 16 October 2024.

Neighbourhood Area/Parish (excluding those wholly in SDNP)	Date of Designation Decision (Regulation 7)	Pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14)	Publicising a Plan Proposal (Regulation 16)	Submission of Plan Proposal to Examiner (Regulation 17)	Examiner's Report (Regulation 18)	Referendum	Making of plan (Regulation 19)
Maresfield[25]	14 November 2012	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ninfield	23 January 2020	22 September 2022 to 4 November 2022	25 September 2023 to 13 November 2023	January 2024	The Examiners Final Report was published on 9 April 2024 where it was recommended that subject to modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum held on 5 September 2024	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 16 October 2024.
Uckfield	5 June 2014	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wadhurst[26]	8 November 2017	14 November 2022 to 3 January 2023	5 June 2023 to 17 July 2023	November 2023	The Examiner's Final Report was published on 18 January 2024 where it was recommended that subject to modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum.	The Plan successfully passed a referendum held on 2 May 2024.	The Plan was formally 'made' (adopted) on 15 May 2024.

[25] Maresfield Parish Council have confirmed in the current monitoring period that they are no longer proceeding with a neighbourhood plan.

[26] Wadhurst Parish Council carried out a pre-submission Regulation 14 consultation on its Neighbourhood Plan between 16 June 2021 and 15 August 2021, but due to significant changes to the plan between Regulation 14 and Regulation 15 stages, the district council advised Wadhurst Parish Council to carry out a second Regulation 14 consultation which took place between 14 November 2022 and 3 January 2023.

4.6 Documents pertaining to each neighbourhood plan can be viewed on our neighbourhood planning webpage[27]. Hadlow Down has not been included in the table above as Community Right to Build Orders follow a different series of stages than a NDP prior to being made[28]. Currently, Hadlow Down has not proceeded beyond the designation stage.

4.7 Up until the end of the reporting period, there were three made neighbourhood plans in the district; the Parishes of Hailsham, Herstmonceux and Hellingly. These three neighbourhood plans form part of the statutory development plan and are now used in determining planning applications within the respective Hailsham, Hellingly and Herstmonceux neighbourhood areas. The three 'made' NDPs have not sought to allocate land for residential development. Neither the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan, nor the Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan include any windfall policies for residential development.

4.8 During the reporting period, Wealden District Council carried out the Regulation 16 Consultation on the Wadhurst Neighbourhood Plan between 5 June and 17 July 2023 and it was submitted for examination in November 2023. The Final Examiner's Report was published on 18 January 2024. After a successful referendum, just outside the reporting period on 2 May 2024, the Plan was 'made' on 15 May 2024, as detailed in the table above, which represents the current position.

4.9 Three other emerging NDPs undertook Regulation 16 consultations during the reporting period; East Hoathly with Halland, Ninfield, and Horam Parish. Horam Parish also carried out their Regulation 14 consultation in the reporting period between December 2023 and February 2024. Since the reporting period, all three Neighbourhood Plans have progressed through their respective examination processes and have successfully passed referendums, leading to all three NDPs being 'made' at a Full Council meeting on the 16 October 2024. Whilst outside of the reporting period, this represents the current position and means that 7 NDPs have been 'made' at the time of writing

4.10 One other neighbourhood area, Maresfield, has also confirmed in the current monitoring period that the Neighbourhood Plan will no longer be progressed. This is similar to the position in Crowborough, where both areas have been designated under Regulation 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, but there are no plans currently for the NDPs to be progressed. Both are detailed in the table above, for transparency and monitoring purposes.

4.11 Several other made neighbourhood plans have started the process of reviewing their existing plans. This work will continue throughout the current monitoring period.

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[27] Neighbourhood Planning Webpage

[28] Part 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

5.0 Community Infrastructure Levy

5.1 Since April 2010, local planning authorities have been permitted to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is an important tool for local authorities to use to help deliver the infrastructure that is needed to support development in its area. This can include a wide variety of infrastructure projects such as:

- Transport;
- Education and Schools;
- Community Facilities;
- Parks and Green Infrastructure;
- Health Care Facilities; and
- Other Infrastructure.

5.2 CIL has largely replaced the previous planning obligations regime for many forms of infrastructure, although planning obligations can still be used for site-specific infrastructure and mitigation measures and will also be used to secure the provision of affordable housing.

5.3 The Wealden CIL Charging Schedule sets out the approach to CIL across Wealden District (excluding the South Downs National Park). The draft CIL Charging Schedule was examined on 23 June 2015 by the Planning Inspectorate. The Council received the final report from the Inspector on 21 August 2015. This report concluded that the Wealden CIL Charging Schedule provides an appropriate basis for the collection of the levy within the district. The Council had sufficient evidence to support the schedule and was able to show that the levy was set at a level that will not put the overall development of the area at risk. The Inspector recommended that the schedule should be approved in its published form, without changes[29]. The CIL Charging Schedule came into force on 1 April 2016.

5.4 Previously, national planning legislation[30] stated, in relation to AMRs, that where a local planning authority has prepared a report for CIL income and expenditure, it would need to be reported within the AMR. However, the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019 were published on 1 September 2019[31]. The new regulations made consequential amendments to this secondary legislation.

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[29] Wealden District Council Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, November 2015

[30] Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (regulation 34 (5))

[31] The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019

5.5 It notes that for the financial year 2019/2020 onwards, any local authority that has received developer contributions (section 106 planning obligations or Community Infrastructure Levy) must publish online an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS), no later than the 31 December in each calendar year. It notes that local authorities can also report this information in its AMR, but it would still be required to publish an IFS by 31 December.

5.6 Wealden District Council has decided not to include specific CIL information within the AMR. This information can now be found within the published IFS that is available on the Council's website[32].

[32] Wealden's Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS)

6.0 Monitoring Policy Effectiveness

6.1 The following section provides commentary on the indicators identified in the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan Implementation and Monitoring Framework (February 2013). The format of this section follows the themes and structure of the Core Strategy Local Plan Implementation and Monitoring Framework document. For each spatial planning objective, a table sets out the indicators to be used under the headings shown below.

Table PI1: Indicator Column Headings

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/24	Commentary

6.2 The 'Indicator Name', 'Indicator Description' and 'Target' are reproduced from the Core Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Framework (Background Paper BP13)[33]. The 'Achievement' column shows the achievement in the reporting year in relation to the target for that indicator. The 'commentary' column offers analysis and establishes whether we are meeting our current objectives.

6.3 As discussed within Section 8 (Delivering the Core Strategy) of the adopted Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013), the monitoring framework focuses on the strategic issues and activities that are essential for the delivery of the Core Strategy. The Council uses the AMR process to identify the need to review any elements of the Core Strategy where it has been identified, a continued failure to meet targets set, or which are necessary to meet changes in national planning policy.

6.4 As discussed under section 2 of this report, the Council updated and adopted its LDS in January 2024 and is in the process of formulating its new Local Plan. This new Local Plan will contain new planning policies with new aims and objectives, thus also new monitoring indicator to assess whether these are achieved. These will replace the current monitoring indicators once the new Local Plan is adopted.

[33] Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan – Background Paper 13: Implementation and Monitoring Framework

Spatial Planning Objective 1: Protecting the Natural Environment

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description		Achievement 2023/24	Commentary
1A	NI197 (Conservation Management)	Proportion of sites where conservation management is being achieved	Increase above current level	**None**	Data is not available for this indicator in this monitoring period.
1B	Quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Proportion of SSSIs favourable or unfavourable recovering	95%	**84%**	During the 2023/24 monitoring period, the proportion of SSSIs that are in a favourable or unfavourable recovering position has dropped from 87% in the 2022/23 monitoring period to 84% in the current reporting period (2023/24). This means that in the 2023/24 monitoring period, the 95% target has been missed. The number of units in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition has dropped by 8 units in this reporting period (2023/24) when compared to the last monitoring period. There are still no SSSI units which are either part destroyed or destroyed within Wealden District, although 14.3% of SSSI units (33 units overall) are described as 'unfavourable declining'. This data is collected via the Sussex Biodiversity Record

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description		Achievement 2023/24	Commentary
					Centre and covers the period from 1 April 2023 to the 31 March 2024. A full dataset for this indicator over time is provided at Appendix 1A.
1C	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity	Changes in (a) priority habitats and species (by type) and (b) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub regional or local significance	No loss	**No Loss**	During the 2023/24 monitoring period, there has been no loss of areas and populations of biodiversity, which means that we have achieved this target. The data in this monitoring period is largely comparable to the previous monitoring period, although there have been small increases in Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and RSPB Reserves from the previous monitoring period. Land managed by live Environmental Stewardship Agreements has decreased from 7697.3 hectares to 5439.1 hectares over the period. However, as stated in previous AMRs, this is likely due to changes in the way data is collected with regards to land ownership and categorisation. This data is collected by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and covers the period from 1 April 2023 to the 31 March 2024. A full dataset for this indicator is provided at Appendix 1B.

Spatial Planning Objective 2: Protecting the Historic Environment

Indicator Number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/24	Commentary
2A	Listed buildings	Number of listed buildings at risk	Lower number of Listed Buildings at risk	**8**	Historic England maintains an 'At Risk' register of Listed Buildings within each local authority area[34]. Currently in Wealden District, including the South Downs National Park area of the district, there are eight buildings/historic designations at risk. The listed buildings at risk are as follows: • Cross-in-Hand Windmill, Mill Lane, Heathfield and Waldron (Grade II* Listed Building); • Church of All Saints, Waldron, Heathfield and Waldron (Grade I Listed Building); • Gibraltar Tower, Heathfield Park, Heathfield and Waldron (Grade II* Listed Building); • High Rocks Camp (Scheduled Monument)[35]; • Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row (Registered Park and Garden, two Grade II Listed Buildings); and

[34] Historic England: Heritage at Risk 2023

[35] This relates to the Hill Fort itself, which is located within Wealden District, although the Scheduled Monument is also partly located within Tunbridge Wells Borough.

Indicator Number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/24	Commentary
					• The Mint House, Village Street, Pevensey (Grade II* Listed Building); • Parish Church of St Andrew the Tye, Alfriston (Grade I Listed Building)[36]; • Polegate Windmill, Park Croft, Willingdon and Jevington (Grade II* Listed Building) There have been no new entries on the Buildings at Risk Register in this reporting period, thus entries remain stable, and as set out in the previous AMR Report. Whilst the target is to lower the number of buildings at risk, the position has not worsened, as the Council continue working with affected and interested parties and partners to seek preservation and enhancement of these buildings where possible.
2B	Tourism impacts	Annual impact figures from Tourism South East: number of visitors and total spend by	Increase above current level	**Total Visits (2023) – 5.44 million** **Visitor Spend (2023) –**	The outbreak of Covid-19 greatly impacted tourism in Wealden due to several periods of mandated lockdowns across the country and varying travel restrictions being imposed. This unprecedented event also disrupted the data supplied by Tourism Southeast and Visit Britain, and as a result, the ability to measure consistently with this indicator.

[36] This Listed Building is in the South Downs National Park.

Indicator Number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/24	Commentary
		visitors to Wealden		**£169.3 million – See commentary**	However, following discussions with our economic advisory consultants during the Covid pandemic years, it was advised that the only valid way to provide figures for 2020 was to apply the published national decline in visitor numbers and spend (where available) to the Cambridge Model data from the previous year. Therefore, the data provided for the 2020 period should be used as an indicative figure only. The indicative figures for 2020 showed that there were 4.4 million trips, and a total spend of £96.4 million. After this this period, the collection of data for the national surveys that are used to support the Cambridge Model templates was unavailable for 2021 and 2022. As a result, caution should be used in directly comparing figures to previous years. Notwithstanding this, the data for available years is contained in Appendix 1C. This shows that the total number of trips (5.44 million) and the total spend of tourists (£169.3 million) for the 2023 period has not yet reach pre-pandemic levels but is considerably greater than the estimated data available for the last recorded year in 2020. The Council will continue to

Indicator Number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/24	Commentary
					monitor visitor numbers and spend in the years to come.

Spatial Planning Objective 3: Housing Provision

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
3A	Housing completions per annum - NI 154/ AMR H2b	Housing completions per annum	In line with housing trajectory (450 completions for 2023/24).	**986 net completions**	The Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan Housing Trajectory[37] requires 450 net completions in each monitoring period. The actual recorded net housing completions for this monitoring period is 986 dwellings. This is significantly higher than the requirement, over double that set, and therefore this target has been significantly exceeded. However, this figure is lower than the previous reporting year for housing completions of 1,138 (net) dwellings. It should be noted that the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan is out of date with regards to its housing requirement and current national planning policy suggests that housing need for Wealden in the period was 1,186 dwelling per annum (dpa). The detailed assessment of housing need and requirements is noted in the Council's latest Housing Land Supply Statement as 1 April 2024[38]. Further data for net completions from previous years is available at Appendix 1D.

[37] Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013)

[38] Wealden District Council Housing Land Supply Statement (September 2024)

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
3B	Affordable housing	Affordable housing completions as a percentage of all completions within the policy threshold	35% (plan target)	**38%**	The Wealden District Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan (May 2016) requires that 35% of net completions (of sites of more than 5 (net) dwellings) within a monitoring period are affordable dwellings. In the 2023/24 monitoring period, affordable dwelling completions formed 371. The overall net housing completions for all tenures stood at 986. This equates to 38% of net housing completions being affordable. The proportion (in percentage terms) of affordable housing dwellings has increased substantially from the 2022/23 monitoring period where the delivery of affordable housing dwellings was at 19%. This is a significant increase compared to last year and may be attributed to several factors, including that a lesser number of smaller sites have been completed during this period than in the previous year, which has contributed to a higher number of affordable housing completions overall. The economic climate has also resulted in some preference for affordable housing funding where Registered Providers have been identified on larger sites. These issues are likely linked to the economic climate, with challenging issues faced by all housebuilders. Development in the Wealden District has been largely resilient to this, but

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					some effects are likely to be noted, especially in the short term. It should also be noted that this data is collected by Wealden District Council's Housing Team and may not correlate entirely (in terms of timings) with the Council's planning record on housing completions generally.
3C	Affordable housing completions	Affordable housing completions per annum	Interim target of 100 per annum until the new Wealden Local Plan is in place	**371**	In this monitoring period (2023/24), there have been 371 new affordable housing completions. This is 153 more affordable housing completions than that recorded in the 2022/23 monitoring period, and significantly higher than the interim target of 100 affordable housing completions. Reasons for this are as set out above, resulting in this target being exceeded for this year. The breakdown of the affordable housing completions is as follows: • 49 Social Rent; • 212 Affordable Rent; and • 110 Shared Ownership. This data is collected by Wealden District Council's Housing Team and may not correlate entirely (in

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					terms of timings) with the Council's planning record on housing completions generally.
3D	Strategic completions	Housing completions per annum by Strategic Development Area	In line with figure 5 of the Core Strategy	**See commentary**	The total amount of net housing completions for each Strategic Development Area to 31 March 2024 is presented below: SD1 – Uckfield Urban Extension – 243 (net) dwellings (against proposed a provision of around 1000 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD2 – East Hailsham Urban Extension – 258 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of around 600 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD3 – North Hailsham Urban Extension – 861 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of around 700 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD4 - Land at South Polegate and East Willingdon – 0 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of around 700 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD6 and SD7 – Stone Cross Urban Extensions –798 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					around 650 dwellings (combined) in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD8 and SD9 – Crowborough Urban Area – 102 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of around 140 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD10 – Southeast Crowborough Urban Extension – 242 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of around 160 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) SD11 – Tunbridge Wells Urban Extension – 55 (net) dwellings (against a proposed provision of around 120 dwellings in WCS4: Strategic Development Areas) The total number of (net) dwellings completed on Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) as of 31 March 2024 is 2,559, against an identified 4,070 (net) dwellings identified across the strategic development areas identified in Policy WCS4 of the Core Strategy. This shows that's 63% of the housing development identified for those growth areas has now been completed.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					It is also noteworthy that 6,054 (net) dwellings in these areas have an extant planning permission, but completions on sites have stalled due to various factors, not least the Covid-19 pandemic, affecting build out rates in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and most recent years of the plan period.
3E	Homelessness	Total homeless households in priority need	Reduce from current level	**111**	The total number of homeless households in priority need has risen from 96 in the 2022/23 monitoring period to 111 within the 2023/24 monitoring period. This is an increase since the last reporting and reflects the growing issues of homelessness across the wider region. This data is collected by Wealden District Council's Housing Team.
3F	Gypsy and Traveller	Net additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches granted permission	32 pitches by 2039 as identified within the Council's current evidence	**0**	During the reporting period (2023/24), planning permission has not been granted for any additional permanent gypsy and traveller pitches. Work continues on identifying pitches to meet the Gypsy and Traveller housing need, as part of the work on the new Local Plan.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
			base document[39]		

[39] East Sussex Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment, May 2022

Spatial Planning Objective 4: Supporting the Viability of Wealden's Principal Towns

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
4A	Strategic allocations	New employment allocations by Strategic Development Area	In line with WCS 3	**N/A**	Indicators 4A and 4B relate specifically to the delivery of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013) and it was expected that the site allocations document would be adopted soon after. However, the Strategic Site Allocation document was withdrawn by Wealden District Council in 2015. Therefore, we are unable to gather data to assess this indicator. As such, it cannot be assessed as to whether this target has been achieved.
4B	Retail provision	New retail allocations by Strategic Development Area	In line with WCS 3	**N/A**	
4C	Vacant units	Vacant units in town centres	Reduce	**N/A**	Data is not available for this indicator in this monitoring period.

Spatial Planning Objective 5: Education and Skills

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
5A	School places	Number of new school places provided through	In line with IDP	**N/A**	Data is not available for this indicator in this monitoring period.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
		developer contributions			
5B	Qualifications	People of working age with no qualifications	Reduce	**Reduction in number of people of working age in Wealden with no qualifications, from 1600 (1.8%) in 2021, to 1410 (1.7%) in 2023**	Data available for this reporting period identifies that there were 1,410 people of working age within the district that had no qualifications in 2023. This is a reduction in real terms, compared to the 1,600 residents previously identified in 2021. The percentage of the working age population with no qualifications has therefore dropped from 1.8% to 1.7% over the same period. There are now more people of working age in Wealden who benefit from a qualification, thanks in part to initiatives such as national changes to participation in schools and apprenticeships, coupled with local work through Skills East Sussex and programmes like Street Learning provided by WDC and our partners. In addition, some people in older age cohorts, without qualifications, have retired or have ceased looking for work.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					The data is provided by East Sussex County Council[40] and further information is available at Appendix 1E.

[40] East Sussex in Figures

Spatial Planning Objective 6: Improving Economic Prosperity

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
6A	AMR BD1	Quantity of new employment floor space	38,190 sqm by 2030	**5,050 sqm (gross) and 4,502 sqm (net)** **Total achieved since Core Strategy adopted – 147,162 sqm (gross) and 74,126 sqm (net)**	For the 2023/24 monitoring period, there was a net gain of employment floorspace (formerly known as Use Class B)[41] of 4,502 sqm. The breakdown of this data is available at Appendix 1F. Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2024, there has been a net gain of employment floorspace within Wealden District of 74,126 sqm. In terms of gross employment floorspace completed over the same period, this stands at 147,162 sqm. This shows how this target has been significantly exceeded since adoption of the Core Strategy and indicators identified.
6B	AMR BD4	Quantity of new retail floor space	16,937 sq m by 2030	**5,175 sqm (gross) and 5,025 sqm (net)**	For the 2023/24 monitoring period, there has been a net gain of retail floorspace (formerly known as Use Class A1)[42] within Wealden District of 5,025 sqm. This was significantly greater than the 469 sqm provided in

[41] As of 1 September 2020, uses falling within Use Class B1a, B1b and B1c all formed part of a wider Use Class E (Commercial, business and service).

[42] As of 1 September 2020, uses falling within Use Class A1 have formed part of a wider Use Class E (Commercial, business and service).

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
				Total achieved since Core Strategy adopted – 19,577 sqm (gross) and 5,429 sqm (net)	the last reporting period, with the increase largely due to the completion of a significantly sized retail unit in the Ashdown Park business area. Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2024, there has been a net gain of retail floorspace (formerly known as Use Class A1) within Wealden District of 5,429 sqm. In terms of gross retail floorspace completed over the same period, this stands at 19,577 sqm. However, this is still short of the overall target figure of 17,000 sqm of net additional retail floorspace over the period 2006-2027. The retail sector was particularly impacted during the Covid-19 crisis with mandatory closures of non-essential shops occurring throughout that period. The growth in the monitoring year of retail uses is supported and has bucked the trend in recent years.
6C	Employment rate	Proportion of working age population who are in employment	No target	**82.2%**	The proportion of the working age population in employment within Wealden District is 82.2% for the 2023/24 monitoring period. This compares to 73.2% for the 2022/23 monitoring period, which is a notable increase in local employment levels.

Spatial Planning Objective 7: Promoting the Reduction in the Need to Travel by Car

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
7A	Housing distribution	Housing completions by town/ settlement	In line with figure 5 of the Core Strategy	**N/A** **Refer to SPO3 above**	Indicators 7A, 7B and 7C relate specifically to the delivery of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013) and it was expected that a site allocations document would be adopted soon after. However, the Draft Strategic Sites Allocation Local Plan was withdrawn by Wealden District Council in 2015. Therefore, we are unable to gather data to assess these indicators. As such, it cannot be assessed as to whether these targets have been achieved.
7B	Employment distribution	New employment allocations by town/ settlement	In line with WCS 3	**N/A** **Refer to SPO6 above**	
7C	Retail distribution	New retail allocations by town/ settlement	In line with WCS 3	**N/A** **Refer to SPO6**	
7D	Commuting	Commuting flows into & out of the district	Reduce out commuting	**19,350 (2021 census)**	The 2021 census still provides us with the most up-to-date information on commuting flows outside of the district. The 2021 census shows that 74,541 Wealden residents were working at the time of the Census and that 39,160 Wealden residents were working at home at the time of census and a further 16,031 Wealden residents travelled within the district for work. This equates to 55,191 Wealden residents working within the local authority area or 74%.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					This means that 19,350 Wealden residents travelled to another local authority area for work, or 26% of Wealden residents who worked at the time of the census. This is significant reduction from the 2011 census where 30,809 Wealden residents out commuted from the district. The largest movement of people out of Wealden was 5,410 people to Eastbourne, followed by Lewes (2,489 people) and Tunbridge Wells (2,356 people).
7E	Mode travel	Travel to work by mode	Reduce travel to work by private vehicle over the plan period	**Working From Home 34.9%** **Private Vehicle 52.10%** **Public Transport 2.7%** **Foot/Cycle 6.1%**	This data was revised in the 2021 Census and remains as previously reported. The information is not directly comparable to the 2011 Census in that a significant method of travelling to work at the time of the 2021 census was working from home, that accounted for 34.9% of Wealden residents that are working. There have been significant reductions in those using the private motor vehicle to commute to work from 71.3% in 2011 to only 52.1% in 2021. There have also been smaller reductions in those who use public transport to commute to work and those who walk/cycle to work between the 2011 and 2021 censuses.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
				(2021 Census)	
7F	AQMA	Air Quality Management Areas	No reduction in air quality	**No Air Quality Management areas identified in the district**	The latest Air Quality Annual Status Report[43] was published in June 2024 and confirms that Wealden does not have any designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Noting that no designation is necessary, it can be determined that this target has been achieved.

[43] Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR), June 2024

Spatial Planning Objective 8: Enhancing the Village Network

Indicator number	Indicator Name	Indicator Description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
8A	Distribution	Housing completions per annum by settlement	In line with Fig 5 of the Core Strategy and WCS 6	**N/A** **Refer to SPO3 above**	Indicator 8A relates specifically to the delivery of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013) and it was expected that a site allocations Local Plan would be adopted soon after. However, the draft Strategic Sites Allocation Local Plan was withdrawn by Wealden District Council in 2015. Therefore, we are unable to gather data to assess this indicator. As such, it cannot be assessed as to whether these targets have been achieved.
8B	Exception Sites	Completion of affordable homes on exception sites	No target	**0 units**	There were no affordable housing completions on rural exception sites during the 2023/24 monitoring period. However, the delivery of affordable housing remains greater than the target set out in the Core Strategy, as set out elsewhere in this report. Affordable housing completions are not reliant on the delivery of affordable homes via rural exception sites.

Spatial Planning Objective 9: Climate Change

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
9A	CO2 per capita	Carbon dioxide emissions per capita	No up-to-date target	**Total Per Capita CO_2e Emissions is equal to 4.0 (2022), reduced from 4.3 (2021)**	The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) publishes annual data on carbon dioxide emissions per capita in each local authority area. The latest data report[44] available identifies that a new methodology for these calculations has been adopted. Whilst previous years considered emissions from Industrial & Commercial, Domestic and Transport Sectors, new sectors are now also considered, including Agriculture and Public Sector. The DESNZ have therefore recalculated previous years emissions having regard to this new methodology, to enable direct comparisons year on year. Based on this updated data, carbon emissions per capita have fallen from 4.3 to 4.0 within the Wealden District in the last year. There is also a considerable reduction since 2012, when carbon dioxide emissions were calculated at 6.2kt per capita at this time, using the retrospectively applied new calculation methodology. Further data is available at Appendix 1G.

[44] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2005 to 2022 UK local and regional greenhouse gas emission, June 2024

Spatial Planning Objective 10: Flood Risk

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
10A	Risk of flooding	Number of planning permissions granted on strategic development areas within flood zones 2 and 3	0	**0**	The Environment Agency (EA) objected to five planning applications within the 2023/2024 monitoring period. However, none of these applications are located on land within strategic development areas, as identified within he indicator. As such, no planning permissions have been granted within Flood Zones 2 and 3 in these strategic development areas, and the target has been achieved. Appendix 1H provides further detail on the specific planning applications identified. Further detail on assessment of these applications, and/or the EA objection received, can be read on relevant planning application files available online. This data was sourced from the Environment Agency[45].

[45] Environment Agency objections to planning on basis of flood risk.

Spatial Planning Objective 11: Green Infrastructure

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
11A	Green infrastructure	New green infrastructure provided as part of the Local Plan	No target	**N/A**	Indicator 11A relates specifically to the delivery of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013) and it was expected that a site allocations document would be adopted soon after. However, the Draft Strategic Site Allocations Local Plan document was withdrawn by Wealden District Council in 2015. Therefore, we are unable to gather data to assess this indicator.
11B	ANGSt	Accessible natural green space 2ha <300m from home (relating to new development) or assessment of overall provision of natural green space against Natural England's standards	To increase	**N/A**	Data is not available for this indicator in this monitoring period, as such, it cannot be assessed as to whether this target has been achieved.

Spatial Planning Objective 12: Crime and Safety

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
12A	Road casualties	Recorded road casualties	Reduce	**All casualties 533**	In 2023, the number of recorded road casualties within Wealden was 533. This is 35 more than last year's figure of 498, equating to an increase of 7.02%. As the number of casualties has increased since 2022, this target has not been achieved. However, it is noted that this may be impacted by more people returning to the roads following the Covid 19 pandemic, as numbers are now similar to those in 2019 and preceding years, but with a total reduction still shown since adoption of the Core Strategy. This data is collected by Wealden District Council. Further data is available from previous years at Appendix 1I.

Spatial Planning Objective 13: Living Environment

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Progress towards target
13A	Living Environment	Assessment of contribution of new development to meeting this objective.	To be developed in detail	**N/A**	Data is not available for this indicator in this monitoring period.

Spatial Planning Objective 14: Previously Developed Land

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
14A	Employment floorspace on previously developed land	Total amount of new employment floorspace on previously developed land	N/A	**4,583 sqm (gross) employment floorspace on PDL which equates to 91%**	In the 2023/24 monitoring period, 91% of new (gross) employment floorspace was completed on Previously Developed Land (PDL). This is significantly higher than the same data in percentage terms for the 2022/23 monitoring period (41%). However, it should be noted that the new (gross) employment floorspace completed on PDL in actual terms for the previous monitoring period (2022/23) was much higher at 13,039 sqm.
14B	Residential development on previously developed land	New and converted dwellings on previously developed land	N/A	**203 (gross) dwellings completed on PDL land which equates to 20.58%**	In the 2023/24 monitoring period, 203 of new (gross) dwellings were completed on PDL, equating to 20.58%. This is higher than the figures for the 2022/23 monitoring period, where 15.3% of new (gross) dwellings were completed on PDL. There is a limited supply generally of PDL for potential development, as the district does not have a significant legacy of derelict former industrial land. This data is collected by Wealden District Council. Further data is available from previous years at Appendix 1J.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
14C	Housing density	Density of development to comply with policy requirements	In line with policy requirements	**N/A**	Data is not available for this indicator in this monitoring period.

Spatial Planning Objective 15: Infrastructure Provision

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
15A	IDP action plan	IDP Action Plan to be developed in specific detail	In line with IDP Action Plan	**See commentary in Table LDS2**	As discussed in Section 2 of this AMR, the Council has produced a timetable for the Local Development Scheme (LDS) that outlines how it is to develop its new Local Plan. This will include a new Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) that will seek to develop the IDP in specific detail. This will be an iterative process. However, in the 2023/24 monitoring period, the Council did publish the Interim Infrastructure Delivery Plan (March 2024)[46] for the draft Regulation 18 Wealden Local Plan, which has identified several gaps in infrastructure and the mechanisms to deliver

[46] Interim Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), March 2024

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					such infrastructure during the Plan period. This will be iterated on as part of the new Local Plan.
15B	Access to GP	Annual amount of new residential development on strategic sites within 30 mins public transport time of a GP	100% new development on strategic development areas within 30 mins public transport time of a GP	**N/A**	Data on this indicator is no longer provided by partners, meaning that the latest available data for assessment is from 2019. At that time, statistics were published by the Department of Transport (DfT) for 2019[47] in November 2021. The data demonstrates that in 2019, the percentage of Wealden residents within a thirty-minute journey of their GPs either by walking or public transport was 90%. This has remained unchanged from 2017 where the figure was also 90%.
15C	Travel time to nearest services	Travel time to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.	Increase above current level (see below)	**N/A**	Data on this indicator is no longer provided by partners, meaning that the latest available data for assessment is from 2019. The most recent data available for this indicator are the statistics published by the Department of Transport for 2019 in November 2021. The data demonstrates that in 2019, the percentage of residents within 30 minutes of a secondary school,

[47] Journey time statistics: Department of Transport (2019)

Indicator number	Indicator name	Indicator description	Target	Achievement 2023/2024	Commentary
					either by walking or public transport was 75%. This is 2% lower than in 2017 where the figure was 77%. The data demonstrates that in 2019, the percentage of residents within 30 minutes of town centres, either by walking or public transport was 81%. This is 1% higher than in 2017, where the figure was 80%. The data demonstrates that in 2019, the percentage of residents within 30 minutes of food stores either by walking or public transport was 93%. This is 1% higher than in 2017, where the figure was 92%.

Appendices to the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

Appendix 1: Core Strategy Indicators Additional Data

Appendix 1A: Quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

	SSSI areas (ha)	Units in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	Units destroyed	SSSI units minus destroyed units
2010/11	8234	225	97.8%	0	8234
2011/12	8233	223	97.0%	0	8233
2012/13	8234	224	97.4%	0	8234
2013/14	8234	222	96.6%	0	8234
2014/15	8234	222	96.5%	0	8234
2015/16	8234	222	96.5%	0	8234
2016/17	8226	223	96.6%	0	8226
2017/18	8237	222	96.6%	0	8237

	SSSI areas (ha)	Units in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	Units destroyed	SSSI units minus destroyed units
2018/19	8237	222	96.5%	0	8237
2019/20	8237	217	94.4%	0	8237
2020/21	8237	204	88.6%	0	8237
2021/22	8237	204	88.7%	0	8237
2022/23	8237	200	87.0%	0	8237
2023/24	8237	192	84.0%	0	8237

Appendix 1B: Areas of Biodiversity Importance

Designation		Area of Designation 2013/14 (ha)	Area of Designation 2014/15 (ha)	Area of Designation 2015/16 (ha)	Area of Designation 2016/17 (ha)	Area of Designation 2017/18 (ha)	Area of Designation 2018/19 (ha)	Area of Designation 2019/20 (ha)	Area of Designation 2020/21 (ha)	Area of Designation 2021/22 (ha)	Area of Designation 2022/23 (ha)	Area of Designation 2023/24 (ha)
International	Ramsar	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099	3099
	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827	5827
	Special Protection Area (SPA)	3207	3207	3207	3207	3205	3205	3205	3205	3205	3205	3205
National	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	44625	44625	44625	44625	44625	44624	44624	44624	44624	44624	44624
	National Nature Reserve (NNR)	239	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4	239.4
	National Park	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088	6088

Designation		Area of Designation 2013/14 (ha)	Area of Designation 2014/15 (ha)	Area of Designation 2015/16 (ha)	Area of Designation 2016/17 (ha)	Area of Designation 2017/18 (ha)	Area of Designation 2018/19 (ha)	Area of Designation 2019/20 (ha)	Area of Designation 2020/21 (ha)	Area of Designation 2021/22 (ha)	Area of Designation 2022/23 (ha)	Area of Designation 2023/24 (ha)
	Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)	8234	8234	8234	8226	8237	8237	8237	8237	8237	8237	8237
Local	Country Park	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7	309.7
	Local Geological Site[48] (LGS)	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3
	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	256.8	256.8	256.8	256.8	256.8	275.3	275.3	275.3	275.3	275.3	275.3
	Local Wildlife Site[49] (LWS)	3305	3305	3313	3375	3375	3375	3377	3377	3377	**3377**	**3378**
	Notable Road Verge	-	-	-	-	7.81	9.99	9.99	9.99	9.99	24.1	24.1
	Environmental Stewardship Agreements	33965	33437	33437	21028	17433	14469	12530	12531	12531	**7697.3**	**5439.1**

[48] The designation used to be known as a Regionally Important Geological Site in previous AMRs.

[49] The designation used to be known as Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) in previous AMRs.

Designation		Area of Designation 2013/14 (ha)	Area of Designation 2014/15 (ha)	Area of Designation 2015/16 (ha)	Area of Designation 2016/17 (ha)	Area of Designation 2017/18 (ha)	Area of Designation 2018/19 (ha)	Area of Designation 2019/20 (ha)	Area of Designation 2020/21 (ha)	Area of Designation 2021/22 (ha)	Area of Designation 2022/23 (ha)	Area of Designation 2023/24 (ha)
	National Trust	614	615	615	741	741	741	741	741	741	741	741
	RSPB Reserve	181	181	181	181	181	181	181	195	195	**202.6**	**215.8**
	Sussex Wildlife Trust Reserve	362.2	362.2	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	281	281
	Woodland Trust	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7	159.7

Appendix 1C: Number of Visitors and Total Spend between 2015 and 2023

	Total Trips Undertaken (mil)	Total (£) Spent by Tourists during visits (mil)
2015	5.8	253.8
2016	6.1	305.3
2017	6.0	287.8
2018	5.94	310.2
2019	5.97	301.8
2020	4.4*	96.4*
2021	**	**
2022	**	**
2023	5.44	169.3

*Estimated due to impact of Covid-19 pandemic, applying national percentage reduction to 2019 data.

** Information not available due to impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Appendix 1D: Net Completions within Monitoring Periods between 2013/14 and 2023/24

Monitoring Period	Net Completions
2013/14	560
2014/15	576
2015/16	520
2016/17	564
2017/18	462
2018/19	828
2019/20	1,034
2020/21	722
2021/22	685
2022/23	1,138
2023/24	986

Appendix 1E: Residents in Wealden District of Working Age with No Qualifications[50]

Year	Number	Percentage
2010	10,300	11.9%
2011	7,700	8.8%
2012	4,900	5.6%
2013	6,600	7.6%
2014	3,500	4%
2015	8,600	9.6%
2016	4,700	5.2%
2017	4,500	5.1%
2018	2,300	2.7%
2019	3,000	3.4%
2020	1,800	1.9%
2021	1,600	1.7%
2022	-	-
2023	1,410	1.8%

Appendix 1F: Total amount of additional employment floor space – by Use Class Type (m^2) in 2023/24

	B Use Class Mixed	E(g) (Mixed)	E(g)i (Offices)	E(g)ii (Research and Development)	E(g)iii (Light Industry)	B2 (General Industrial)	B8 (Storage and Distribution)	Total
Gross	0	0	133	0	1,007	1,296	2,614	**5,050**
Net	0	0	-69	0	843	1,214	2,514	**4,502**

[50] Please note that prior to 2015, women between 16 and 59 were included in the statistics (as well as men between 16 and 64). In 2015, this changed to include women between 16 and 64 as well.

Appendix 1G: CO_2 emissions per capita (kt) in Wealden District

	Industry	Commercial	Public	Domestic	Transport	LULUCF Net Emissions	Agricultural	Waste	Total	Per Capita Emissions
2012	38.5	85.0	29.8	391.8	357.2	-132.1	148.0	36.0	954.3	6.3
2013	37.0	80.1	29.4	382.5	353.5	-136.4	143.3	37.0	926.4	6.1
2014	35.7	70.0	25.2	329.7	361.2	-135.9	149.4	34.3	869.6	5.7
2015	32.8	63.6	23.6	318.8	369.4	-137.6	138.8	35.3	844.7	5.4
2016	30.1	55.3	20.4	300.7	379.2	-133.6	135.6	27.7	815.6	5.2
2017	30.2	47.3	19.8	281.6	376.0	-137.3	138.6	30.7	786.9	5.0
2018	29.4	50.3	17.6	279.2	366.1	-136.0	141.1	31.8	779.5	4.9
2019	24.8	43.5	16.9	267.8	359.4	-136.9	147.3	29.8	752.6	4.7
2020	23.3	38.2	16.1	264.6	288.8	-139.2	143.7	25.9	661.4	4.1
2021	25.3	42.3	17.3	266.4	306.3	-136.0	136.9	26.1	684.7	4.3
2022	25.1	37.9	16.3	237.2	306.6	-135.3	134.8	28.8	651.2	4.0

Appendix 1H: Objections to planning applications by the EA (2023/2024)

Planning Reference	Site Address	Decision
Monitoring period 2023/24		
WD/2020/1749/F	Kenwood Brook, Mill Lane, Hellingly BN27 4HD	Refused on 28/06/2023
WD/2022/2764/F	Land adjacent to Railway Cottages, Station Road, Town Row, Rotherfield TN6 3HS	Withdrawn on 16/10/2023
WD/2023/1495/F	Willowpool, Sluice Lane, Pevensey BN24 5JW	Pending
WD/2023/1849/F	Sea Road Car Park Toilet Block, Pevensey Bay BN24 6EH	Approved on 09/10/2023, with EA objection removed
WD/2023/1996/F	3A Marine Close, Beachlands, Pevensey Bay BN24 6RD	Withdrawn on 12/10/2023
WD/2023/2041/F	Stream Cottage, Wenhans Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6NR	Approved on 10/11/2023, with EA objection removed
WD/2023/2101/F	Larkmead, Eastbourne Avenue, Pevensey BN24 6AS	Withdrawn on 08/11/2023

Appendix 1I: Recorded Road Casualties within Wealden District

Calendar Year	All casualties	Killed or Seriously Injured	Slight Injuries
2013	650	140	510
2014	585	116	469
2015	657	138	519
2016	598	129	469
2017	592	136	456
2018	578	123	455
2019	511	126	385
2020	366	92	274
2021	448	117	331
2022	498	127	371
2023	533	135	398

Appendix 1J: New and Converted Dwellings on PDL between 2012/13 and 2023/24

Year	Gross Dwellings on PDL	% Gross on PDL
2012/13	247	36%
2013/14	251	45%
2014/15	179	31%
2015/16	267	51%
2016/17	315	56%
2017/18	224	40%
2018/19	268	32%
2019/20	256	24%
2020/21	330	45%
2021/22	173	25%

Year	Gross Dwellings on PDL	% Gross on PDL
2022/23	174	15%
2023/24	203	20%

Appendix 2: Index of Saved Policies – Wealden Local Plan (1998)

General Development Principles

GD1	Development within development boundaries
GD2	Development within development boundaries

Environment

EN1	Sustainable Development
EN2	Development Pattern
EN5	Water Resources
EN6	Landscape Conservation of the High Weald AONB
EN7	Ashdown Forest
EN8	Low Weald
EN9	Sussex Downs AONB
EN11	Coastal Levels
EN12	Protection of trees and woodlands
EN13	Ancient semi-natural woodland
EN14	Landscaping within developments
EN15	Designated nature conservation sites
EN18	Protection of open areas within settlements
EN19	Development within Conservation Areas
EN27	Layout and Design of development
EN28	Design of development for people with disabilities
EN29	Light pollution

Development in the Countryside

DC2	Agricultural dwellings
DC3	Agricultural buildings
DC6	Conversion of rural buildings - general
DC7	Conversion of rural buildings - non-residential use
DC8	Conversion of rural buildings - residential use
DC9	Recreational development in the Sussex Downs AONB & Ashdown Forest
DC11	Golf driving ranges
DC12	Stables and loose boxes
DC13	Larger equestrian developments
DC14	Motor and gun sports
DC17	Housing development in the countryside

DC18	Replacement dwellings
DC19	Extensions to dwellings
DC20	Subdivision of large dwellings
DC22	Residential mobile homes

Housing

HG5	Dwelling mix within new development schemes
HG6	Crime prevention in new housing developments
HG7	Energy consideration in new housing developments
HG8	Retention of existing housing stock
HG9	Subdivision of large buildings in development boundaries
HG10	Extensions to dwellings in development boundaries
HG11	Special needs housing in development boundaries
HG12	Special needs housing outside development boundaries

Business

BS3	Town Business Areas
BS4	Business development within towns
BS5	Retention of existing businesses within towns
BS6	Village business areas
BS7	Retention of existing businesses within villages
BS8	Business development in village development boundaries
BS9	Expansion, redevelopment, intensification in existing business sites outside development boundaries
BS10	Business allocation: Maresfield Business Park
BS11	Business Class B1 use, with business areas
BS12	General industry, Class B2, in business areas
BS13	Warehousing, Class B8, in business areas
BS14	Alternative uses for business sites outside business area
BS15	Home working

Shopping

SH2	Main Shopping Areas
SH3	Service uses within main shopping areas
SH4	Amusement centres in main shopping areas
SH5	Business uses in main shopping areas
SH6	Residential uses in main shopping areas
SH11	Farm shops

SH12	Garden Centres

Transport

TR1	Environmental impact of new road proposals
TR2	Design of new road proposals
TR3	Traffic impact of new development
TR10	Heavy goods vehicles in rural areas
TR13	Footpaths and bridleways
TR16	Car Parking Standards
TR17	Safeguarding Uckfield/Lewes railway line
TR18	Safeguarding Polegate-Pevensey railway line
TR19	Safeguarding Eridge-Tunbridge Wells railway line

Tourism

TM1	Tourist attractions and facilities
TM2	Tourist attractions and facilities: Sussex Downs AONB & Ashdown Forest
TM3	Conversions to hostel accommodation for walkers and cyclists
TM4	Holiday villages and chalet parks
TM5	Static Caravan sites
TM6	Touring caravan and camping sites: Ashdown Forest
TM7	Touring caravan and camping sites: Sussex Downs AONB and coastal levels
TM8	Touring caravan and camping sites
TM9	Caravan Storage
TM10	Interpretive facilities

Leisure and Recreation

LR1	Provision of outdoor playing space
LR2	Protection of existing recreational open space
LR3	Children's play space in developments of 30+ dwellings
LR4	Artificial turf pitches
LR5	Informal amenity space in new residential developments
LR7	Indoor sports facilities
LR8	Community halls

Community Services

CS1	Provision of capital works and services
CS2	Drainage

CS3	Willingdon Levels drainage catchment area
CS4	Recycling enclosures: residential development
CS5	Recycling enclosures: commercial and community development

Crowborough

CR1	Business allocation north of Millbrook Business Area
CR2	Crowborough Warren housing policy area
CR4	Western Road Goods area
CR5	Secondary shopping area
CR6	Beacon Road and Park Road business areas: proposals for business use
CR7	Beacon Road and Park Road business areas: proposals for shops and services
CR8	Mead House site, Beacon Road
CR9	Jarvis Brook neighbourhood centre
CR10	Whitehill Road
CR11	Public open space allocation: Goldsmith recreation ground
CR12	Crowborough Ghyll and Palesgate landscape policy area

Hailsham

HA1	Housing Development in Hailsham
HA5	Business allocation land off Station Road / Old Swan Lane
HA6	New Shopping facilities outside main shopping areas
HA7	Commercial Uses outside main shopping area
HA8	Traffic calming and pedestrian priority measures
HA9	Junction improvement: South Road/Station Road/Western Road
HA11	New primary school: Ingrams Farm

Heathfield

HE1	Housing Development in Heathfield
HE2	Business Allocation: Land of Ghyll Road
HE3	Burwash Road Commercial Area

Polegate and Willingdon

PW1	Housing development in Polegate
PW5	Willingdon Levels recreation policy area

Uckfield

UC1	Housing development in Uckfield

UC2	Secondary shopping areas
UC3	Office/residential conversions between Framfield Road and New Place
UC5	Framfield Road
UC7	Public open space allocations: land south of Victoria Pleasure Ground and north of the Mount
UC8	Riverside Walk

Villages with Development Boundaries

VB5.2	Pound Green housing area, Buxted
VB7	Old Willingdon Road and Western Downlands housing policy area, Friston
VB8	Business allocation: NE of South Street Business area, East Hoathly
VB12.1	Park Road housing area, Forest Row
VB14	Florance Lane, Groombridge housing policy area
VB22.1	Lower Dicker traffic on A22
VB22.2	Business allocation: land adjacent Hackhurst Lane business area, Lower Dicker
VB23	Public open space allocation: Lower Horsebridge
VB24	Maresfield Park housing area, Maresfield
VB26	The Warren, Station Road, Knowle Park Road housing policy areas, Mayfield
VB31	Coast Road housing policy area
VB37	Mayfield Lane housing policy area

Hellingly Hospital

HH1	Hellingly Hospital

Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines.
Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)	As a legislative requirement under Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2012, the AMR is the main mechanism for assessing the performance and effects of Wealden District Core Strategy (February 2013) and the timescales set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS).
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.
Development Plan	Is defined in Section 38 of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and includes adopted local plans, neighbourhood plans that have been made and published spatial development strategies, together with any regional strategy policies that remain in force. Neighbourhood plans that have been approved at referendum are also part of the development plan, unless the local authority decides that the neighbourhood plan should not be made.

Term	Definition
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A procedure to be followed for certain types of projects to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	The project management plan that describes the Council's programme for producing its Local Development Plan Documents.
Local Plan	A plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The National Planning Policy Framework is a key part of the government's reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible. The framework acts as guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. It was first published in March 2012, but the latest revised version was published in December 2023.
Neighbourhood Plans	A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area. In law this is described as a neighbourhood

Term	Definition
	development plan in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
Objectives and Indicators	Objectives are what are trying to be achieved, and indicators are measures that show whether or not objectives are being achieved. They can be used to help show whether planning policy is effective, and in helping to conduct a Sustainability Appraisal (SA).
Previously Developed Land	Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or was last occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill, where provision for restoration has been made through development management procedures; land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape.
Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	This amended much of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, the 2004 act made major changes to the system of development plans and introduced sustainable development, as defined by

Term	Definition
	government policy, as an objective of the planning system.
Ramsar Sites	Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Soundness	A Development Plan Document (DPD) will be considered sound if it has been prepared in accordance with the criteria set out in government policy guidance and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)	The South Downs National Park Authority is the statutory planning authority for the National Park area and was formed in 2011.
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Areas defined by regulation 3 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been given special protection as important conservation sites.
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Areas classified under regulation 15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been identified as being of international importance for breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds.
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	A public statement of the Council's intentions for involving the community in the production of its Local Development Plan Documents, and in ongoing development management (planning application) decisions.

Term	Definition
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)	The SHELAA is a technical assessment that identifies sites that may have the potential for future housing or economic development over the plan period. The assessment forms a key evidence base for the Wealden Local Plan and future housing delivery.
Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)	Documents which add further detail to the policies in the development plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	An evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of policies and strategies in a Local Development Document to ensure the policies and strategies are in accordance with sustainable development objectives.