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Response to Wealden District Council's consultation on the Proposed Modifications to their Core Strategy Development Plan Document by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Modifications WS6 and WS8
These modifications require additional explanation. The infrastructure requirements for developing this site detailed in Wealden's Strategic Sites DPD Issues and Options Consultation Paper January 2012 state at para 14.34 that, amongst other infrastructure requirements considered necessary to deliver site SD12, works will be required to Tunbridge Wells South waste water treatment works. Although it is stated that these works will be implemented by 2017 *at the earliest*, additional information is required to justify bringing forward the anticipated start of development.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires that plans should be based on joint working and co-operation, including with adjoining local planning authorities and service providers. The proposed dates for delivering site SD12 should be determined within this context, ensuring that all the implications of development have been considered within the wider geographical context which given the location of site SD12 adjacent to Tunbridge Wells should include TWBC and the services provided by the urban area of RTW.

It is therefore requested that the additional wording proposed by modification WS8 that refers to the capacity of waste water treatment works in RTW should also include the additional statement "*and other critical infrastructure, delivery to be brought forward working in close partnership with infrastructure providers, Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council".*

Modification WS9 (proposed additional information and requirements to be added after Figure 5 Phasing of Development for sites at Uckfield, Stone Cross and Hailsham)

It is requested that additional information is added with reference to site SD12 stating that development should not take place here until all infrastructure requirements are resolved, including those infrastructure requirements provided within the urban area of Royal Tunbridge Wells, for example educational and medical provision and highway/pedestrian improvements.

Modification WS28 (provides a requirement for partnership working between Wealden and all infrastructure providers)

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) would support this approach. It is requested that a reference is added to include "*neighbouring authorities*" as well as infrastructure providers. This would provide a more robust approach to infrastructure provision as well as supporting a core principle of the National Planning Policy Framework that plans should be based on joint working and co-operation. It is important that decisions on when and how site SD12 is developed are considered within the wider context of proposed development both within and adjacent to Royal Tunbridge Wells, particularly those sites within the Borough of Tunbridge Wells close to site

SD12. This requires joint working between both Local Planning Authorities, the developers and all infrastructure providers, both within Wealden District/East Sussex County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough/Kent County Council.

Modification WS39 (proposed change to the Key Diagram to delete the words “commencement around 2026” when referring to site SD12)

TWBC’s comments would be same as those stated above at WS6&8, requiring additional information to support the proposed date for commencement of development at site SD12.