Wealden District Council

Working in Partnership

South Downs National Park Authority

WEALDEN DISTRICT (INCORPORATING PART OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK)

Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document - National Planning Policy Framework Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Statement of Representations Procedure

Title of the document

Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

The subject matter

Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority submitted the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) to the Secretary of State on the 5th August 2011 for independent examination.

The Core Strategy sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Wealden District, including the area within Wealden that lies within the South Downs National Park. It comprises a long-term spatial vision and strategic objectives, a spatial strategy, core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework with clear objectives for achieving its delivery. This document identifies the quantum of growth and broad locations for delivering housing and other major development needs such as employment, retail and infrastructure.

The independent inspector appointed to conduct the examination, Mr Michael Moore BA(Hons) MRTPI CMILT MCIHT held an Exploratory meeting on 12th October 2011. The Public Hearing sessions relating to the submitted Core Strategy ran from 17th January to 2nd February 2012. As a result of evidence provided during the Exploratory Meeting and Hearing, Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority proposed a number of modifications to the Core Strategy. Following the Hearing the Inspector, Mr Michael Moore has suggested further main modifications to the submitted document that may affect the soundness of the submitted plan.

These modifications were subject to consultation from Wednesday 11th April to Wednesday 13th June 2012. The consultation is now closed, and all relevant representations have been forwarded to the Inspector.

During the consultation on the Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document the National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27th March 2012. The National Planning Policy Framework came into effect on the date it was published, and therefore is a relevant consideration for the examination of the Core Strategy. The Planning Inspectorate has suggested a model policy wording that it considers would be an appropriate way of meeting this expectation. Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have considered this suggestion and agreed that the wording of this suggested model Policy together with the explanatory text should be incorporated into the Core Strategy to meet this requirement. This approach is also reflected in the letter dated 9th May to the Inspector Mr Michael Moore. The correspondence relating to this matter is available on the Wealden District Council website www.wealden.gov.uk.

There is a requirement that any proposed main modifications be subject to consultation, in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement. Therefore Wealden District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have published, for consultation, the proposed modifications to the Core Strategy DPD regarding the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development for representations.

Representations on proposed modifications

Representations are invited upon the soundness of the Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document National Planning Policy Framework Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Statement of Representations Procedure. To assist the Inspector any further comments should be confined to the proposed modifications only and should not relate to matters already covered as part of the examination of the Core Strategy.

Representations are invited for a period of six weeks beginning on **Thursday 5th July 2012**. To assist the Inspector in his consideration of any submitted comments representations should be made on the prescribed representations form and returned to **Head of Planning and Environmental Policy, Wealden District Council, Freepost SEA 10959, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1BR or by e-mail to ldf@wealden.gov.uk** by no later than **5pm on Thursday 16th August 2012**. Only those comments that are made in writing/email and that are received at the address (or email address) provided within the time period specified will be considered. The Proposed Modifications should be read in conjunction with the Submitted Core Strategy and Proposed Modifications that were published for representations in April 2012. Forms and Guidance notes, and supporting documents, are available on the Wealden District Council website www.wealden.gov.uk as well as a number of venues open for public inspection.

Please note that the Planning Policy Team will be re-locating to the Council's Hailsham Offices on the 10th July 2012. However, any relevant correspondence regarding the Proposed Modifications received at the Pine

Grove Offices at Crowborough before 5pm on Thursday 16th August 2012 will be forwarded to the Planning Inspector.

Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specified address of any of the following matters - the publication of the recommendations of any person appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Core Strategy; and the adoption of the Core Strategy.

Please telephone 01892 602007 or e-mail ldf@wealden.gov.uk if you require assistance in submitting your representation or if further information is required. If you, or somebody you know, would like the information (guidance notes, forms etc) in large print, braille, audio tape/CD or in another language please let us know.

Data Protection Act 1998 and Freedom of Information Act 2000

Representations cannot be treated in confidence. We are required to make copies of all representations publically available. The Council will also provide names and associated representations on its website but will not publish personal information such as telephone numbers, e-mails or private addresses. By submitting a representation on the Proposed Modifications you confirm that you agree to this and accept responsibility for your comments.

For any queries regarding the examination process or timetabling please contact the Programme Officer, Lynette Benton on 07985 878623 or by e-mail lynette.benton@wealden.gov.uk.