Matter 5 /WDC

Wealden District (Incorporating part of the South Downs National Park)

Core Strategy Hearing

Matter 5: Retail Provision - Statement by WDC/ SDNPA

December 2011

Wealden District Council and South Downs National Park Authority
Response to the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions
(Issued 3 November 2011)

Matter 5: Retail Provision (WCS1, WCS3)

A) Does the Core Strategy provide adequate guidance on the future retail growth requirements of the Borough?

1.1 Policy WCS3 is clear as to where new allocations of retail development will be required in the District. The key diagram indicates redevelopment of Uckfield Town Centre with retail provision and town centre regeneration at Hailsham including retail provision. Policy WCS3 indicates that individual sites to meet the provisions will be allocated in the Sites Allocations DPD.

B) Is the scale and location of future retail floorspace in Policy WCS3 justified by the evidence base?

2.1 Policy TC2 of the SE Plan specifies that assessment for the need for further floor space in town centres is required, including assessing the capacity to accommodate change and growth. The scale and location of future retail floor space is outlined in Revised Retail Floor Space Figure for the Wealden Draft Core Strategy (reference H6) based on the Shopping Study for the District (H2A and H2B). This evidence base provides for a qualitative and quantitative assessment of need and capacity and fully justifies the approach taken in relation to retail provision.