South Downs
National Park Authority

Ref: WDC/EIP

Date: 1 September 2011

Dear Ms L. Benton,

RE: Submitted Wealden District Core Strategy - Inspector's questions

Please find the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) responses to the Inspectors initial questions. This builds on the answers that Wealden District Council have already sent you and just provide more detail regarding the SDNPAs role.

The first question was addressed by David Phillips of Wealden District Council regarding the submission Core Strategy being the same one as that which was subject to representations during the period 14th February - 18th April 2011 (with the minor changes schedule that has also been submitted.

Secondly, the joint core strategy required the approval of both Wealden District Council (WDC) and the SDNPA, and as such we both support the Core Strategy as a whole. However, the SDNPA is the LPA for the SDNPA, and WDC is the local planning authority for the remainder of the District, so our spatial policy jurisdiction can only relate to these respective areas.

Thirdly, the signed Memorandum of Understanding has now been sent. In addition to this, the South Downs National Park Authority (Establishment) Order 2010, Part 4 Continuity of Exercise of Function http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/497/contents/made, also puts in place the transitional arrangements for the transfer of functions from all relevant authorities and anything related to these functions (i.e. including planning policy documents as they relate to any part of the National Park). The formal approval of the SDNPA was given, during the shadow year, when the Planning Committee members agreed that the Wealden Core Strategy would be the planning policy for that part of the Park which lies within Wealden District. Please see the minutes of the meeting.
http://sdnpa.co.uk/content/page/11806/Agenda_Item_3_Minutes_November_20101210.pdf

With regards to the Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement, the SDNPA inherited these (which apply within the part of the National Park which lies within Wealden District) on 1st April 2011, under the above establishment order. These will continue to be in force, unless newer/replacement versions are adopted. The SDNPA will, in time, adopt its own, Park-wide LDS / SCI / etc, and these will then supersede the inherited documents.

Fourthly, Wealden District Council would be the first point of contact. It is the intention of the SDNPA to have an officer presence during the Examination in Public as required. All formal decisions would require approval by both WDC and the SDNPA. The inspectors report would need to be to both the SDNPA and to WDC as it is a joint core strategy. The document would need to be formally adopted, in the case of the SDNPA, by National Park Authority resolution, if it is to become the planning policy for that part of the District which falls within the National Park.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

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