

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to you in my capacity as chair of the Burgess Hill Town Council Planning Committee. At our committee meeting on the 11th of December 2023, we considered the document titled 'Towards a Lewes Local Plan: Spatial Strategy and Policy Directions' and we wish to make the following comments.

We are deeply concerned by the proposal titled 'Spatial Option 3' outlined on pages 49-50 on the following grounds:

1. Spatial Option 3 would undermine agreed Mid Sussex District Plan policy on a) agreed definitions of the Burgess Hill built-up area and b) on preventing coalescence between our surrounding towns and villages.
2. Spatial Option 3 is socially exclusionary as residents of these homes would naturally wish to access services in the Burgess Hill area but would be unable to do so as they would not be legally resident in either a) Burgess Hill, b) Mid Sussex, or c) West Sussex. This could leave them unable to access services including recycling centres or libraries.
3. Further challenges to the Burgess Hill transport and social infrastructure. As I am sure you are aware, this area of Burgess Hill was recently granted planning permission for 260 homes on the Land South of Folders Lane (also known as SA13 or SoFLAG). This is a part of the town that already has challenges with traffic issues, especially at rush hour. Furthermore, there are ongoing issues with a lack of social infrastructure, particularly medical infrastructure east of the Brighton mainline. We believe that Burgess Hill's infrastructure on this side of the town needs time to absorb the current housing allocations.
4. Impact on the South Downs National Park. This area is essentially bordered on two sides by the National Park, and we are concerned about the potential impact of these new homes on nature.
5. As the document notes, Spatial Option 3 would make a 'very limited' contribution to Lewes District housing need. The effort required to realise the proposal would be disproportionate compared to its contribution.

We recommend that you do not enact Spatial Option 3.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor David Eggleton

Chair, Burgess Hill Town Council Planning Committee