

Horsham Local Plan Examination

WSCC Hearing Statement

September 2026

1. This hearing statement has been prepared by officers on behalf of West Sussex County Council in its role as Local Highway Authority.

Matter 6: The soundness of the site allocations

General

2. In its representations regarding MM199, MM216, MM218, MM227, MM229, MM232, MM235 and MM242, the County Council has requested adding policy text specifying that the applicant should either deliver or make proportionate contributions towards highway mitigation improvements as recommended by the Horsham Local Plan Transport Assessment (Document Ref: HDCJB15b). These are needed to mitigate the cumulative highway impacts at a number of locations on the network resulting from the additional development proposed through main modifications.
3. The highway mitigation improvements include junctions on the A24 corridor which performs a strategic role providing for medium and long distance north-south movement through Horsham District. In some cases (MM218, MM242), the need for the interventions arises from the combined impacts of multiple sites across the District rather than being attributable to a single strategic site, or group of sites, adjacent to the impacted junctions. As a result, a conventional approach that relies solely on site-specific mitigation would be unlikely to secure the full package of infrastructure required in the evidence base, which contributed to the County Council's soundness objection.
4. The County Council considers that obtaining contributions that are proportionate to the scale and proximity of sites to the A24 will be the most effective way of securing sufficient contributions. Without such a mechanism, there is a risk that funding gaps could arise, undermining the timely delivery of the necessary mitigation. Securing contributions from developments across the Plan area will help to ensure delivery of the identified infrastructure when it is required during the Plan period. In line with neighbouring areas, the process of overseeing the contributions gathered and prioritisation of sustainable and highway infrastructure for delivery can be informed by the recommendations of a Transport Infrastructure Management Group, including the highway and planning authority.

24 September 2026