

Appendix D3 - Environment: South Downs National Park

This appendix sets out the duty to cooperate work between Mid Sussex District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority in relation to consideration of the setting of the South Downs National Park, site selection and plan preparation.

Evidence of cooperation pre Reg 18 consultation

(Up to 19th December 2022. Regulation 18 consultation 7th Nov – 19th December 2022)

Cooperation Mechanism	Group/Prescribed body	Membership	Date of Meeting	Agenda - Key Issues Covered	Outcomes
Cross boundary	Local Authorities	Mid Sussex District Council South Downs National Park Authority	31 August 2022	SDNP update MSDC update MSDC/SDNP topic paper Other cross boundary matters (See appendix D6)	Agreed that SDNPA will share example reports relating to the assessment of the setting of the National Park. Agreed that MSDC will send draft topic paper for review and SDNPA to provide feedback. (Sent on 06 September 2022). Agreed that SDNPA will share information on any relevant nature recovery/ecological corridors/sites
Cross boundary	Local Authorities	South Downs National Park Authority	04 October 2022 (email)	Response to Topic Paper (See appendix D6)	SDNPA provided feedback on the paper and site specific comments via email. These comments were taken into account in the next iteration of the document.
Explanation of how the cooperation has influenced plan making					
The South Downs National Park Authority provided comments and feedback on the Setting of the South Down National Park Topic Paper and the site assessment of sites in the SHELAA, considered to potentially fall within the Park's setting.					

SDNP review of assessment of sites that had the potential to impact on the setting of the National Park had been properly considered. To ensure sites allocated in setting of National Park were not harmful/capable of mitigation.

Evidence of cooperation between Reg 18 and Reg 19

(19th Dec 2022 – 23rd Feb 2024. Regulation 19 consultation 12th January – 23rd February 2024)

Cooperation Mechanism	Group/Prescribed body	Membership	Date of Meeting	Agenda - Key Issues Covered	Outcomes
Cross boundary	Local Authority	South Downs National Park Authority	8 December 2023 (email)	Response to Topic Paper (sent 12 January 2022) (See appendix D6)	SDNPA provided further comments on the Setting of SDNP Topic paper.
Explanation of how the cooperation has influenced plan making					
SDNP comments on the Topic Paper were taken into account and resulted in updates and refined conclusions to the site assessments. This work did not change the overall conclusion of the site assessment work.					

Evidence of cooperation between Reg 19 and Submission (24th Feb 2024 – 8th July 2024)

Cooperation Mechanism	Group/Prescribed body	Membership	Date of Meeting	Agenda - Key Issues Covered	Outcomes
Duty to cooperate	Local authorities	MSDC and SDNPA	15 May 2024	Discussed the SDNPA representation to the Mid Sussex District Plan (Regulation 19)	Agreed that the SDNPA could comment on the additional landscape work that the site promoters for Sayers Common will be preparing. (no note of meeting)
Explanation of how the cooperation has influenced plan making					
The Council has sought to address the issues raised in the South Downs National Park Authority's Regulation 19 representation, through a meeting. An agreement to continue to work with the SDNPA and the site promoters of Sayers Common sites on landscape matters. This did not require a change to the content of the Plan.					

Evidence of cooperation post Submission (9th July 2024 onwards)

This has been included for completeness, noting that engagement with the South Down National Park is ongoing. Despite the Council’s view that sufficient work had been undertaken to inform Regulation 19 consultation and submission.

Cooperation Mechanism	Group/Prescribed body	Membership	Date of Meeting	Agenda - Key Issues Covered	Outcomes
Duty to cooperate	Local authorities	MSDC and SDNPA	15 July 2024	Discussed the additional landscape work that the site promoters for Sayers Common have prepared	The SDNPA was satisfied with the additional landscape work and agreed it sought to address comments raised. Agreed that SDNPA would provide any further comments for MSDC to feedback to site promoters. (no note of meeting)
Explanation of how the cooperation has influenced plan making					
The South Downs National Park Authority has provided input to additional work undertaken by the site promoters for the proposed allocations at Sayers Common (DPSC3-DPSC7). This demonstrates that the two authorities have continued to engage on both strategic and site-specific issues. This cooperation will also continue as this work progresses and throughout the planning application process. This commitment to ongoing engagement and ensuring the South Down National Park Authority’s input is set out in the Statement of Common Ground [DC10, paragraph 8].					