



Evidence of ongoing correspondence with neighbouring Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities regarding soft sand

The County Council is of the view that ongoing and meaningful engagement with neighbouring Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities has been undertaken throughout the review of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This note aims to provide a helpful pointer to the Inspector for further information regarding this, particularly around the soft sand matter.

Firstly, the County Council draws attention to the Soft Sand Position Statement 2023 which is attached as Appendix 8 to the Duty to Co-Operate Report (May 2024) (SD03). Page 46 of the Soft Sand Position Statement details the South East Mineral Planning Authorities who are signatories of the Statement.

Furthermore, the Soft Sand Statement of Common Ground between, KCC, West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Maidstone Borough Council July 2022 is attached as Appendix 9 to the Duty to Co-Operate Report (May 2024) (SD03).

Section 4 of the Duty to Co-Operate Report specifically outlines the engagement that has taken place with neighbouring Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities through the review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This section includes reference to the County Council's active participation in several working groups, including the South East England Aggregate Working Party in paragraph 4.5.

Paragraph 4.14 of the Duty to Co-Operate Report sets out that Essex County Council, West Sussex County Council and East Sussex County Council were consulted on the need for a Statement of Common Ground with KCC and did not indicate that this was necessary.

In addition to this, the County Council's response to the Inspectors Preliminary Matters, specifically question 2, reiterates this position further.

Table 7, table 8 and table 9 of the Duty to Co-Operate Report provide a summary of the representations received from neighbouring Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities through each of the three Regulation 18 consultations that were undertaken. All signatories of the Soft Sand Position Statement and the Soft Sand Statement of Common Ground were consulted at each Regulation 18 public consultations, and these summary tables provide a summary of the representations received from the Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities, with no such representations outlining any need for any further Statements of Common Ground.

The following table sets out a position with neighbouring minerals and waste authorities:

Minerals and Waste Planning Authority	Update
Surrey County Council	Ongoing engagement with Surrey County Council has taken place throughout the Local Plan work and a Statement of Common Ground was agreed between Surrey County Council and KCC in July 2024 (ED13)
Medway County Council	Ongoing engagement with Medway Council has taken place throughout the Local Plan work and a Statement of Common Ground was agreed between Medway Council and KCC in July 2024 (ED11)
East Sussex County Council	East Sussex County Council were contacted several times leading up to the submission of the Local Plan, seeking clarification on whether a Statement of Common Ground was needed. The last correspondence was dated 18 April 2024 and requested a response by 24 th April 2024. The communication set out that if we did not hear from East Sussex CC by 24 th April 2024, we would assume that they agree with our view that a SoCG is not required at this time. No response has been received from East Sussex CC to date.
Essex County Council	An email was sent to Essex County Council in February 2024 and March 2024 to seek clarification on whether a SoCG is required. A response was received in March 2024 which confirmed that they did not believe that a SoCG was required and the absence of a SoCG would lead the Inspector to assume that there are no issues to address.
West Sussex County Council	An email was sent to West Sussex County Council in December 2023 setting out that we do not consider that there are any strategic cross boundary minerals and waste matters that need to be addressed through a SoCG at this time but sought clarification on agreement with this approach. A response was received in December 2022 setting out that West Sussex CC are already a signatory of the Soft Sand Position Statement and SoCG and do not believe there are any other strategic

	cross boundary issues that require any further SoCGs between West Sussex CC and KCC at this time.
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Kent County Council - Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team
10 September 2024