

West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016

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Foreword

A Message from the Cabinet Member for Strategic Environmental Services

The Structure Plan sets out our strategic planning framework and guides the way West Sussex will grow and develop during the years leading up to 2016 and beyond. We have planned positively for the future to improve the quality of life for everyone in West Sussex.

The Plan is the result of several years' technical work and extensive consultations with our residents and businesses. We have listened carefully to the views of the public and many organisations, and have worked with the District and Borough Councils in coming up with this new Plan for the future of West Sussex. The overriding message from the public and our partners was loud and clear: meet the needs of communities and businesses but protect the character of West Sussex and the environment in general.

Our Vision for West Sussex to 2016 and beyond reflects this message strongly: we want West Sussex to continue to be a county with a network of small to medium-sized towns and villages, where people feel that the countryside is never far away and where social and economic needs are met in high quality environments.

Our Strategy to deliver this Vision has three elements: regenerating the coastal area; managing the pressure for economic growth in the north east of the County; and meeting the needs of rural communities. The delivery of development has been clearly linked with the absolute need to have in place the necessary infrastructure needed to support it so that existing services do not buckle under the strain.

I believe that we have put in place a sound and robust development plan for West Sussex that will strike the right balance between meeting the social and economic needs of our County and protecting its special character and environment. The adopted Plan will provide the benchmark for the way that strategic decisions on new development proposed in West Sussex are considered.

Various modifications have been made during the preparation of the Plan arising from the responses received during the consultation processes. It may seem like a long, drawn out process but I believe that this has helped develop a Plan which is clear in its vision, aims, and strategy and which has widespread support. I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the debate.



Steve Waight
Cabinet Member for Strategic Environmental Services