

**Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council & Highways England
Statement of Common Ground on the Implications of Crawley Borough Local
Plan Housing Numbers on the Strategic Highways Network**

This statement has been produced in co-operation between Crawley Borough Council, Highways England and West Sussex County Council. It responds to concerns highlighted by the Inspector in advance of the Crawley Borough Local Plan (CBLP) Examination Hearing Session held on Friday 27 March 2015. In particular:

1. Is the Highways Agency aware that the level of housing development identified in the Proposed Modifications version of the Plan is 5,000 homes over the 2015-30 period, rather than 4,895? Does this increase in provision change the HA response?
2. Is the Highways Agency aware that the Council published an Infrastructure Plan in November 2014 (LP005) and, if so, does the information in that document address the HA's concerns?

1. Introduction

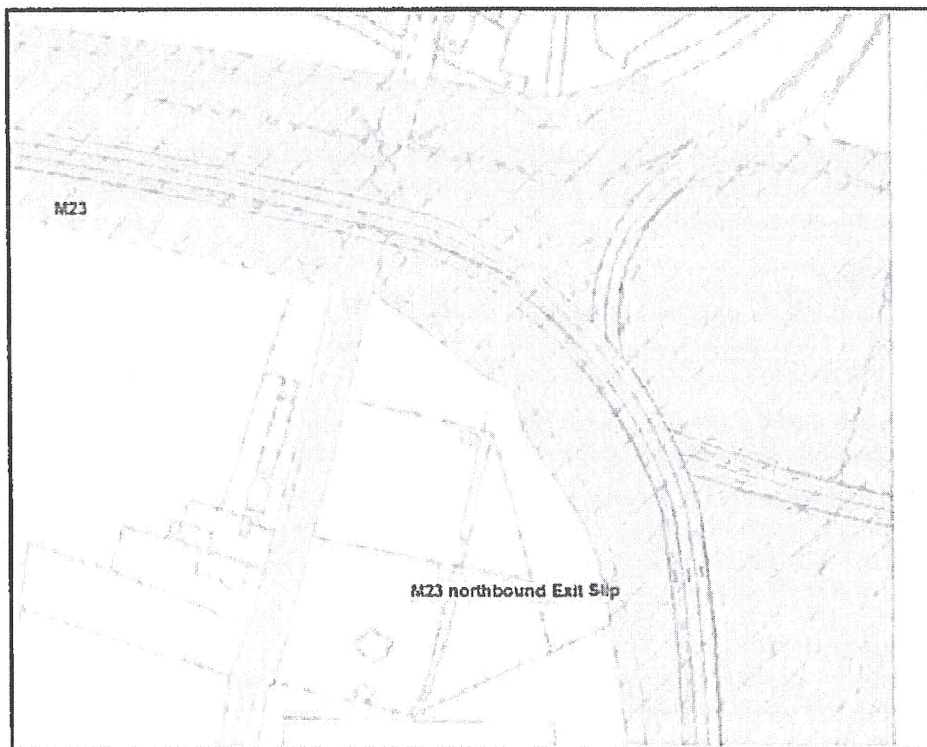
- 1.1 Highways England provided comments on the CBLP throughout the process of publication and examination, in relation to the Transport Modelling undertaken as part of the detailed technical evidence base to support the Local Plan¹.
- 1.2 In the letter dated 13 March 2013, Highways England confirmed an acceptance of the evidence presented to date with one remaining exception.
- 1.3 The outstanding concern relates to the level of housing development considered within the transport modelling. Part 2 of the Transport Modelling, carried out in late 2013 – early 2014 related to a proposed Local Plan proposed housing figure of up to 4,213 dwellings, comprising:
 - housing commitments in Crawley of 2,623 dwellings;
 - preferred strategy housing sites within Crawley of 1,150 dwellings; and
 - alternative strategy potential housing sites within Crawley of 440 dwellings
- 1.4 The submitted, modified CBLP (November 2014) contains a total of 5,000 dwellings. This is based on the full housing trajectory (30 September 2014) which incorporates the housing sites allocated within Policy H2, committed smaller sites and an anticipated windfall allowance.

2. Position of Agreement

- 2.1 Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council and Highways England agree that the evidence provided by the Transport Modelling undertaken to date to support the Crawley Borough Local Plan is adequate to demonstrate the broad impact and required mitigation of the Proposed Modifications version of the Local Plan providing 5000 homes, at the M23.
- 2.2 The Infrastructure Plan (November 2014) and the Crawley Infrastructure Delivery Schedule 2015 confirm that the M23 junction 9 is included as a junction that will require mitigation and that potential funding sources are listed. Crawley Borough Council will continue to work closely with Highways England on the design and implementation of the mitigation solution for this junction.

¹ Transport Modelling Part 1 (2012) Amey Consulting; Transport Modelling Part 2 (2014) Amey Consulting; PM Peak Initial findings (2015) Amey Consulting

- 2.3 A mitigation scheme has been proposed and tested in the transport model at M23 J9 in the Crawley Local Plan Transport Strategy Stage 2, for the most representative scenario, preferred plus alternative strategy at 2029 AM and PM peaks. The scheme would comprise widening of junction sections: approaching from M23 northbound exit; on circulation carriageway past M23 northbound exit slip; on westbound M23 exit towards M23 J9a; as shown in the drawing below.



- 2.4 An outline assessment and cost estimate of approximately £2.75 million excluding commuted lump sum and optimism bias, has been made of the proposed mitigation scheme by a qualified road safety engineer. The proposed level of mitigation at M23 J9 is considered to be feasible, with the qualification that further detailed survey, design and safety audit procedures must be undertaken in due course. Crawley Borough Council and West Sussex County Council will commit to working with Highways England, as necessary, to deliver appropriate mitigation at M23 J9.

3. Outstanding Issues Not Yet Agreed

- 3.1 Highways England require assurances that demonstrate the availability and security of funding for the required mitigation at M23 Junction 9.

Signed for Highways England:

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Name: Peter Phillips

Position: Asset Manager

Dated: 24/4/2015.

Signed for Crawley Borough Council:


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Name: Diana Maughan

Position: Head of Strategic Planning and Housing

Dated: 27/4/2015.

Signed for West Sussex County Council:

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Name: CHRISTOPHER M. OWEN

Position: PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Dated: 24/4/2015