

Questions from Ian Gibson

1. What is the status (plans, financial approval, start and completion dates) of the proposed extension to Crawley Down Primary School? What further publication or consultation on the plans (including the CMS) is planned? (if any) and what fall-back options are being prepared in case the new buildings are not available for the start of School Year 19/20?

Response

The expansion of Crawley Down Village CE School has received planning permission and Cabinet Member approval to the gross budget following the production of a Business Case.

The full design has now been completed and an Officer Key Decision is on track to be taken this month to award the contract for construction. Works are programmed to start on site in February 2019 with partial completion of the reception classrooms on programme for September 2019. The remainder of the works are programmed for completion in October 2019.

The school have been kept fully informed throughout the design phase and the Project Manager and contractor will continue to work closely with the school during the construction phase, including formal monthly progress review meetings to maintain pressure on the contractor to deliver.

2. What is the Council's current policy regarding the expansion of Gatwick in terms of passenger numbers, flights and night flights? What approach is the Council taking to the Gatwick Strategic Plan consultation? and will the public be given the opportunity to comment on any proposed submission?

Response

The Council last agreed a position in January 2015, which was that it was opposed to a new runway to expand Gatwick Airport because "the environmental damage is without question, whereas the economic benefit is unproven and may well be negative". This was in response to the Airports Commission's consultation on the shortlisted options for future airport capacity, which included a second runway at Gatwick and two options for a third runway at Heathrow. However, it should be noted that the draft Master Plan refers to a different set of proposals and makes a different case.

Key issues for the County Council arising from the Master Plan and a suggested response will be previewed by the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee on 6 December, prior to response being finalised and published in January 2019. The Select Committee meets in public, and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe proceedings. The papers for this meeting will be published on 28 November. There will be no opportunity for the public to comment on the County Council's draft response but, having read the committee report, members of the public are able to respond to the consultation themselves. Full details can be found in the consultation document.

3. The partnership between the Council, MSDC, Burgess Hill TC, Homes England and Highways England has brought significant infrastructure benefits to the strategic development of 5,000 new homes in the North Arc. These include three new schools, a health centre and a number of sustainable transport routes. This is in complete contrast to the piecemeal, 'infrastructure-free' development that has taken place in the last decade in the North Area. Does the Council see any benefits in ensuring that the networks and skills that the team involved in the Northern Arc has developed is retained and used in any further development in the North Area?

Response

The Burgess Hill Strategic Growth Programme has been developed over a number of years in partnership between West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council together with key stakeholders and is formally agreed through the Mid Sussex Growth Deal between the two Authorities. The Mid Sussex Growth Deal supports delivery of key infrastructure schemes to support the identified growth through a number of funding sources including the Local Economic Partnership, Coast to Capital and developer funded schemes.

The Programme reflects the transformational development objectives for the town identified within the Burgess Hill Town Wide Strategy and the Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Plan, which has been through extensive consultation with the local community. The Neighbourhood Plan accepts the level of development being delivered within the town (up to 5000 new homes and 200,000sqm of commercial floorspace) in order

to secure the significant improvements in town wide infrastructure and growth, with the key development sites being allocated through the Local Plan process. Burgess Hill provides the opportunity for the levels of growth and connectivity identified and the Growth Programme secures the delivery of priority projects identified within the Programme.