

Statement of Common Ground

Between: Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Relating to: Health infrastructure requirements to support the Sevenoaks District Local Plan and supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan

1. Purpose of this Statement

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground records the shared understanding between Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB) regarding the health infrastructure required to support the level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. It provides evidence of ongoing engagement and collaboration and supports the Infrastructure Delivery Plan by confirming areas of agreement and identifying any matters where further work is required.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 SDC is responsible for preparing the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, identifying infrastructure needs arising from growth, and securing delivery through planning policy and developer contributions.
- 2.2 The ICB is the NHS organisation that plans and buys healthcare services to meet the needs of 1.9 million people living in Kent and Medway. It is their responsibility to ensure health services and all future proposed developments are sustainable from a revenue affordability, capital investment and workforce perspective. They must also ensure that, wherever possible, the delivery of care closer to where people live is maximised.

3. Evidence Considered

- 3.1 Both parties have considered the following evidence in forming this Statement:
- The scale and distribution of growth set out in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan;
 - The Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
 - Capacity assessments undertaken by the ICB;
 - NHS estate information, including condition, utilisation and expansion potential;
 - National and local policy, including NHS England integrated care infrastructure guidance;
 - Site-specific assessments and discussions between SDC and the ICB; and
 - Information on existing and planned health infrastructure provision across the District.

4. Areas of Agreement

4.1 SDC and the ICB agree that:

1. The level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan has been reviewed and understood, and its implications for primary and community care capacity have been assessed.
2. The health infrastructure projects identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan are necessary, proportionate and based on the best available evidence, including the ICB's capacity assessments and estate review.
3. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan correctly identifies where additional capacity may be required, including:
 - Extensions or reconfigurations of existing health facilities;
 - Additional clinical rooms or modular accommodation;
 - The provision of new health infrastructure; and
 - Digital and operational improvements that increase capacity.
4. Delivery of health infrastructure will require Section 106 contributions in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the NHS Kent and Medway Developer Contributions Guide.
5. Both authorities are committed to ongoing engagement throughout the plan period, including regular review and updating of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure it remains accurate, up to date and reflective of emerging evidence.
6. The projects identified are deliverable in principle, subject to detailed design, feasibility, land availability and funding.
7. SDC and the ICB will continue to work collaboratively on planning applications to secure appropriate developer contributions and ensure timely delivery of required health infrastructure.

5. Areas of Ongoing Work / Matters Not Yet Agreed

5.1 The following matters require further work or clarification:

1. Detailed feasibility and costings for specific primary and community care improvements, including operational considerations.
2. Clarifying the expected commencement of each project, recognising that delivery timing is dependent on when associated development comes forward and the resulting phasing of patient demand.

3. The undertaking of detailed capacity assessments as the Local Plan allocations progress to planning application stage, to inform how developer contributions will be used.
4. Ongoing review of opportunities for digital, remote and multi-disciplinary models of care that may influence physical infrastructure requirements.

5.2 Both parties are committed to resolving these matters through continued engagement.

6. Delivery and Phasing

6.1 SDC and the ICB acknowledge that the delivery of health infrastructure will depend on:

- The timing and phasing of development;
- Availability of land and developer contributions;
- Feasibility and design considerations for new premises and the expansion of existing infrastructure; and
- Coordination with wider NHS programmes and estates strategies.

6.2 Indicative delivery timescales are set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and will be refined as further information becomes available in due course.

7. Signatures

Signed on behalf of Sevenoaks District Council	
Name:	
Role:	
Date:	

Signed on behalf of NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board	
Name:	
Role:	
Date:	

--	--

DRAFT