

HDLP Inspector hearings Written Statement - Health/Hospitals

- **MIQ Matter 6 - Q.5**

Hearing Wednesday 18 December (pm)

Plan Strategic Policy 27 - Health - (SRS Consultation response 1187158).

Submitted and to be presented on behalf of **Save Rural Southwater** and to be considered in conjunction with **SRS Consultation response 1187158**.

SRS contends the plan is not "sound" because it states "*the need for a new hospital has not been identified as required in this plan*".

The inspector has not specifically raised in his MIQ the hospital (lack of) issue, however he has included as a Matter (Matter 6 Q.5) "Infrastructure, Transport and Healthy Communities".

Plan Strategic Policy 27 – Health p.94 para 8.32 states;

"The need for a hospital has not been identified as required in this Plan".

For 24 hour A&E treatment Horsham/Southwater residents have to go either to Redhill or to Worthing hospitals. Which depending on traffic can take from 40 minutes to over an hour. And when patients do get to these hospitals there are most often long delays to be seen/treated. With the scale of the already permitted development yet to be completed, and the huge increase in housebuilding foreseen in the plan, not to mention further development around Redhill and Worthing increasing the burden on those hospital facilities, more and closer (to the Horsham district) 24 hour hospital facilities are absolutely essential.

Furthermore existing GP surgeries and pharmacies are already at operating at overcapacity. Doctor appointment delays of over a month are increasingly common and there are regular long queues at local Pharmacies.

The plan is not sound for the district, and in particular not sound for Horsham and Southwater, as a result of the failure to identify the need for additional hospital facilities to cope with existing demand, and what will be much increased future demand, from the residents of the Horsham district.