

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON 14 JULY 2022

SUBJECT:

Potential Increase in the Number of Designated Bathing Waters in Arun District

REPORT AUTHOR:	Roger Spencer (Engineering Services Manager)
DATE:	May 2022
EXTN:	01903 737812
AREA:	Place

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The report seeks authority to undertake the necessary investigation and survey work and then if appropriate to make representation to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs to increase the number of designated Bathing Waters in Arun District.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Environment Committee authorises:

1. Investigations, survey work and public consultation to ascertain whether or not any targeted beaches of the Arun District Council coastline, anticipated to meet the criteria for designating Bathing Waters, warrant a request to Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), to designate them as Bathing Waters under the Bathing Waters Regulation 2013 and
2. The Director of Services be authorised, in liaison with the Chair of Environment Committee to request that Defra considers designating any beaches found under 1 above to be suitable for designation.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. A bathing water is a coastal or inland water that attracts a large number of bathers in relation to any infrastructure or facilities that are provided, or other measures that are taken, to promote bathing at the site.
- 1.2. Water quality is monitored at the designated bathing waters by the Environment Agency between May and September each year to inform an annual classification of the bathing water quality as “excellent”, “good”, “sufficient” or “poor”.
- 1.3. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) reviews the

designated bathing waters in England annually, and in May 2022 wrote asking for assistance in reviewing and updating the list of designated bathing waters.

1.4. Any established bathing sites that do not appear in the list of designated waters, which meet the criteria, may be applied for consideration to be designated.

1.5. There are currently six bathing waters in Arun designated under the Bathing Waters Regulation 2013:

- Bogor Regis (Aldwick)
- Bognor Regis East
- Felpham
- Littlehampton
- Middleton-on-sea
- Pagham

1.6. The criteria for designating bathing waters are set out in the guidance on the relevant section of the gov.uk website. These include usage surveys during the bathing season (15 May – 30 September) showing a breakdown of swimmers, children paddling and other beach and water users.

1.7. Also, any information about any facilities at the site that support and promote bathing must be provided, together with evidence of consultation with the public and stakeholders.

1.8. The application must have the support of the landowner or leaseholder; much of the Arun Foreshore is owned or leased from the Crown under a Regulating Lease.

1.9. Bathing waters may be de-designated but it is considered that the six beaches listed above should stay designated. If bathing waters are to be considered for de-designation, then similar surveys, investigations and consultation necessary for designation, are required.

1.10. For those bathing waters under consideration for the following year's bathing season, applications for designation or de-designation must be submitted to Defra by 31 October.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

1. Investigations, survey work and public consultation to ascertain whether or not any targeted beaches of the Arun District Council coastline, anticipated to meet the criteria for designating Bathing Waters, warrant a request to Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), to designate them as Bathing Waters under the Bathing Waters Regulation 2013 and

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<p>1. OPTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake surveys and investigation relating to targeted beaches anticipated to meet the criteria for designating Bathing Waters and apply for designation as appropriate (recommended option) 2. Not to progress the matter and remain with the six existing Designated Bathing Waters 3. Undertake surveys and investigations necessary, with a view to de-designating one of more Bathing Waters 																																											
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<p>7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:</p> <p>To enable a review of the District's Designated Bathing Waters to be undertaken and amended if appropriate.</p> <p>Designation leads to bathing water quality monitoring to classify water quality. Classification of bathing water quality can help bathers make informed choices.</p>
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If bathing water quality is of a high standard, it can be used to promote the area as a tourist destination. This activity contributes to the Council's vision aim to "Fulfil Arun's economic potential" by "Making best use of our natural assets to help drive the economy."

Conversely, if bathing water quality monitoring data identifies concerns with the quality of the additional bathing waters, this data can be used to inform future engagement with relevant stakeholders.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Bathing waters: apply for designation or de-designation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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