

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Economy Committee – 22 November 2022</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Provision of additional Beach Huts in Arun District – Progress Report.</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Nat Slade, Group Head of Technical Services</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Andy Cooper
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> The provision of additional beach huts in the Arun District will support the Council's Vision in respect of fulfilling Arun's economic potential. Encouraging the development of the district as a key tourist destination, supporting and enabling improvements and activities to increase visitor spend.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> This report is produced by the Group Head of Technical Services to give an update on position associated with the budgeted Capital works.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> A sum of £260k was included in the Council's capital budget for 2021/22. The planned additional beach huts were not provided during 2021/22. The allocated sum was recommended for carry forward to 2022/23 at the Policy and Finance Committee meeting of 6 September 2022.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. In order for the Committee to be updated on the current position with proposed provision of additional Beach Hut facilities in Arun.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2. As this report is an information paper, there are no recommendations for the Committee to consider. This report is to be taken as read only with Members having the opportunity to ask questions at the meeting regarding the provision of additional beach huts. Members can also submit questions or comments on the provision of additional beach huts relevant to the Committee and these will be considered by the Economy Committee on 22 November 2022.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. This report sets out the current progress of the provision of additional beach hut facilities within the Arun District.

### **3. DETAIL**

- 3.1. The Council have budgeted for 2022/23 financial year to provide additional beach huts within the Property & Estates capital programme. As agreed by the Economy Committee these are to be provided in Littlehampton increasing the beach hut provision in the current location on Littlehampton seafront.
- 3.2. Following presentation to the Economy Committee the matter is being developed further as Members wished to see accessible beach huts incorporated into the scheme. A draft plan has been prepared and presently the team is in discussions with the composite beach hut manufacturer to verify the size, layout, design and price of these bespoke huts in order to confirm project viability. Once this is finalised the draft plan will be confirmed and a revised scheme will then be submitted for planning consent incorporating three accessible beach huts in this initial phase.
- 3.3. The project to identify further potential locations for beach huts on Arun land around the district has not progressed in any substantial manner, due to the service needing to prioritise a heavy workload.
- 3.4. A scheme along the promenade adjacent to Butlins is being considered, but requires advice from the Councils legal team to confirm viability.
- 3.5. Alternative viable locations are limited due to ownership, accessibility (in terms of terrain and proximity to amenities), shingle stability, and habitat protection. However, subject to due diligence checks, example sites to consider could include;
  - 3.5.1. Rock Gardens public open space area, The Esplanade, Bognor Regis
  - 3.5.2. Longbrook Park public open space site, Felpham
  - 3.5.3. West Beach shingle adjacent to SSSI, Littlehampton
  - 3.5.4. Greensward areas through Rustington, East Preston and Ferring (Overstrand Avenue, Mallon Drive, Sea Avenue, Tamarisk Way, Coastal Road, Ferring Marine)

### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1. This is an information report and therefore no additional consultation was required. However, where potential sites are identified as Open Space, public consultation will take place.

### **5. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- 5.1. To review the report
- 5.2. To request further information and/or remedial actions be undertaken

### **6. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 6.1. As explained in the Financial Summary section, there is a sum of £260k available in the 2022/23 capital programme to fund the additional beach huts.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1. Risks to the projects include staffing capacity to deliver the project (see section 10 for mitigation). Additional risks to the identification of suitable additional sites include environmental and legal restrictions. Supply chain issues may also cause delay. Any delays to delivery and installation will delay the point from which revenue begins to be generated.

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

- 9.1 This report is for information. The terms of reference of this committee includes the power to carry out performance monitoring and this report provides committee with an opportunity to monitor progress of this initiative.

## **9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 9.1. No additional staffing resource has been recruited to deliver these projects. Efforts are underway to recruit to two vacancies in the team, including temporary agency staff in order to ensure there is sufficient capacity to progress the team's work programme including this work on additional beach huts.

## **10. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

- 10.1. The project to instal additional huts will follow requirements of the construction, design and management regulations. Selection of suitable sites for additional beach huts will take account of health and safety risks.

## **11. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

- 11.1. The Property & Estates team are delivering both projects. As part of the process of identifying suitable sites for addition beach huts title checks on our ownership are being undertaken. Public consultation will need to be undertaken in relation to public open space.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

- 12.1. Littlehampton scheme is being revised to include wheelchair accessible huts. Accessibility of other site is one of many considerations when identifying suitable sites for additional beach huts.

## **13. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

- 13.1. Identification of suitable sites for additional beach huts will be influenced by ecological designations, and the stability of shingle which is impacted by climate change and coastal processes.

## **14. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 14.1. The Safer Arun Partnership has not identified Beach huts as a source of crime and Disorder and there are no specific crime and disorder implications.

## **15. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

16.1 Under The Human Rights Act 1998 it is unlawful for the Council to act in a way which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The aim of Human rights is the individual – it is about putting the individual centre stage. This will sometimes mean consulting individuals or groups of individuals before designing services. Individuals are then able to point out how a proposal would affect their dignity, freedom independence etc before the proposal is adopted. Committee will be aware that the project has been delayed in order to take into account equality considerations.

## **16. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

16.1. There are no specific FOI or Data Protection implications.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

[Installation of Additional Beach Huts in Littlehampton Report & Decision of Economy Committee](#)