

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Planning Policy Committee 28 November 2023</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Arun District Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Update</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Kevin Owen (Planning Policy &amp; Conservation Manager)</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Cllr Martin Lury, Chair of Planning Policy Committee
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b>	
The recommendations supports:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the Wellbeing of Arun;</li> <li>• Supporting our environment to support us.</li> </ul>	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b>	
The Arun District Design Guide SPD Update will help promote wellbeing, housing and other needs while enhancing the quality of life in a sustainable manner.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b>	
There are no direct financial implications arising from Arun District Design Guide SPD Update.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. This report presents the Committee with the update to the Arun District Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which will be subject to a public consultation in December 2023 to January 2024 and then subsequent agreement at Planning policy Committee on 30 January 2024. The Arun District Design Guide SPD was adopted in January 2021. Since then, there has been an update of the Highway Code, which is considered important requiring an update to the Design Guide SPD. The Highway Code includes the Local Transport Note 120 (LTN 1/20). This sets out government guidance on design standards for cycling infrastructure and the requirements for highway and junction design. Therefore, a targeted update to Chapter F of the Design Guide SPD is needed to reflect this new guidance. Because of the status of the SPD document, public consultation on these changes is required.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Planning Policy Committee resolves to agree:

- i. The contents of the proposed new sub chapters F.02, F.03, and F.04 of the Arun District Design Guide SPD update;
- ii. The proposed approach and timetable for the public consultation on the Draft version of the Arun District Design Guide SPD update and that it should progress to consultation from 4 December 2023 to 12 January 2024; and

- iii. That following consultation, the Design Guide be agreed (adopted) at the meeting of Planning Policy Committee on 30 January 2024 unless, in the event that significant amendments are necessary, following a further four week consultation, the Design guide be agreed at the Planning Policy meeting of 18 April 2024.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 3.1. The Arun District Design Guide sets out the council's expectations with regard to the design quality of new development, and for the preservation, conservation and enhancement of the built and natural environment with its distinctive character and qualities that can be found within the District.
- 3.2. The Arun District Design Guide SPD was adopted in January 2021 and since then, the Highway Code has been updated which included changes to the hierarchy of road users and several new requirements regarding cyclists. The Design Guide does not have any guidance which addresses cycle infrastructure and therefore needs to be updated to provide robust advice for designers/applicants and decision makers.
- 3.3. The new sub chapters F.02, F.03, and F.04 of the Design Guide, therefore reflects the Local Transport Note 120 (LTN 120) which is government guidance to local authorities on delivering high quality cycle infrastructure. It reflects current best practice, standards, and legal requirements. Inclusive cycling is an underlying theme throughout so that people cycling of all ages and abilities are considered. The design options include segregation from traffic, measures for cycling at junctions and roundabouts, and updated guidance on crossings, signal design and the associated traffic signs and road markings.
- 3.4. At this stage, the remainder of the Design Guide has not been reviewed so may include references that are superseded. The whole Guide will be appraised as part of the Local Plan update process.

### **4. DETAIL**

- 4.1. Arun District Council Local Plan Policies D SP1 'Design', D DM1 'Aspects of form and design quality' and D DM4 'Extensions and alterations to existing buildings', provide a framework which sets the principles of good design across the district. Good design is an integral part of good planning; therefore, the design policies are in alignment with all other policies in the Plan including the strategic policies. The Policies provide a framework ensuring that the Design Guide SPD has material weight in decision making though explaining in more detail what is expected.
- 4.2. The Arun District Design Guide SPD amplifies the Design policies of the Arun Local Plan (i.e. set out in Chapter 13) to raise the standard of design across the district including in terms of design quality, landscape, the connections between places and spaces, the mix of uses and how buildings relate to their context, including size, shape and appearance.

- 4.3. SPD's are prepared by the council to support the Local Plan, inform the delivery of infrastructure and to aid applicants in preparing successful development proposals. Following public consultation and adoption by the council, SPDs become a material consideration in determining planning applications. This updated section of the SPD will also undergo public consultation on the proposed changes in Chapters F.02, F.03, and F.04.
- 4.4. The new sub chapter proposed in the update to the Design Guide SPD has been added to address the changes made to the Highway Code and LTN 1/20 to addresses the balance between cyclists and motorists. To achieve that, the quality of cycling infrastructure must sharply improve and hence the update of the Design Guide.
- 4.5. The aim is to ensure that we are promoting properly protected bike lanes, cycle-safe junctions, and interventions for low-traffic streets to encourage people to cycle safely.
- 4.6. This updated guidance delivers on our commitment to boost design standards and improve safety. It reflects the latest developments in cycle infrastructure design, including proven design elements pioneered by Transport for London and by the Cycle Ambition Cities and reflects the principles in the LTN 1/20.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- 4.7. All planning decisions within the district must be made in accordance with the Development Plan, which includes the Local Plan. Once adopted, as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) the Arun Design Guide will become a material consideration to Guide decisions relating to planning applications and will be a vital planning tool for shaping new development in line with the policies set out in the Local Plan.
- 4.8. Prior to its adoption, including during and after the consultation and public participation period, the Arun Design Guide SPD carries weight that may be material for consideration by developers and decision makers when preparing and determining planning applications for new development.

4.9. The proposed timetable to progress the update is:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Date</b>
Draft Consultation version of the Arun Design Guide SPD taken to Planning Policy Committee	28 November 2023
Advertise and public consultation on the Design Guide SPD	4 December 2023 to 12 January 2024
If following consultation, there are no significant amendments to the Design guide SPD, Policy Committee resolve to agree (adopt) the design SPD.	30 January 2024
If following consultation there are significant representations and necessary amendments to the Design guide SPD, a further four week consultation is undertaken with the Regulation 12 Statement of public participation, setting out the consultation process, a summary of main issues raised and how those issues were addressed	12 February 2024 to 11 March 2024
Policy Committee resolve to agree (adopt) the design SPD.	18 April 2024

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1. It is important to update the guide to include sub chapters F.02, F.03, and F.04 to ensure that Arun can continue to secure development that is plan led and consistent with sustainable development as well as development which would improve the wellbeing of the people through improved built and natural environments.
- 5.2. The new sub chapters of the guide contain information for applicants on cycling infrastructure design and sets a quality threshold to achieve when designing cycling and walking schemes. It is important to note that the update is only the inclusion of the new sub chapters F.02, F.03, and F.04.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1. West Sussex County Council has been consulted on the content of the brief and then the proposed document.

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

- 7.1. There are no comments.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1. There are not likely to be any significant risks with this proposal.

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

9.1. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Regulation 8(2) provides that a supplementary planning document (SPD) must contain a reasoned justification of the policies contained in it and in Regulation 8(3) any policies contained in a supplementary planning document must not conflict with the adopted development plan. Regulation 12 then sets out how the public consultation on SPD should be carried out. There are no additional governance or legal implications at this stage not already covered in the body of the report.

## **10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

10.1. There are no implications arising for Human Resources.

## **11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

11.1. There are no direct implications for Health & Safety, however the design guide update will reflect changes in the highway code which specifically relate to cycle infrastructure and include options such a segregation from traffic, which will offer potential improved safety outcomes.

## **12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

12.1. There are no direct implications for council property.

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

13.1. There are no direct adverse implications for Equalities/Social Value.

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

14.1. There are no direct adverse implications for climate change from this report. The provision of safe and suitable cycle and walking schemes will be essential in supporting improvements to both active travel and public transport. This will also support improvements to local air quality and reduce emissions generated through petrol/diesel fueled vehicles.

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

15.1. There are no direct adverse implications for Crime and Disorder.

## **16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

16.1. There are no direct adverse implications for Human Rights.

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

17.1. There are no implications for FOI/Data Protection.

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

**Background paper**

- [Supplementary planning information | Arun District Council](#)  
Design Guide SPD Update Chapter F