

REPORT TO:	Planning Policy Committee 26 September 2024
SUBJECT:	Local Plan Update Direction of Travel – Consultation Response
LEAD OFFICER:	Zac Ellwood (Head of Planning Policy)
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Gill Yeates (Chair of Planning Policy Committee)
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
<p>The recommendations supports:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the Wellbeing of Arun; • Delivering the right homes in the right places; • Supporting our environment to support us; • Fulfilling Arun’s economic potential. 	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
<p>Engagement and consultation on what should be within the Arun Local Plan update will ensure residents can help shape sustainable new communities and places, where new homes meet the needs of current and future generations by reducing their carbon footprint, enhancing biodiversity , promoting active healthy lifestyles through walking and cycling, leisure, arts and culture and through enhancing the quality of heritage, natural and built environments while promoting economic growth, in a sustainable manner.</p>	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:	
<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this Direction of Travel consultation responses.</p>	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. This report is noting the summary of the responses received from the public consultation on the Regulation18 Issues and Options - Direction of Travel document, in order to inform the next stage of the Local Plan Update 2023 to 2041.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Planning Policy Committee resolves to agree: -
- i. That the summary of the consultation responses is noted and that the consultation responses do not cause any issues which prevents officers from progressing onto the next stages of the Local Plan Update; and
 - ii. That the contents of the consultation comments will be used, where relevant, to inform the next stage of Local Plan evidence base work.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. On 19 July 2023 Full Council approved the Planning Policy Committee's recommendation to lift the pause to the Arun Local Plan Update. Officers progressed work through workshops to prepare a Direction of Travel (i.e. Issues and Options) document forming the first Regulation 18 stage public consultation.
- 3.2. The Regulation 18 Issues & Options is an early stage of the plan making process where the council can take views from the public, consultees, partner organisations, businesses and stakeholders into account in shaping the updated Local Plan before it progresses through its later statutory stages. To do this, the council produced this Direction of Travel Document for consultation, which explained the context, process, and timetable, identifying topics with key facts and potential opportunities and challenges. This Regulation 18 stage public consultation ran for 6 weeks from 25 March - 13 May 2024.
- 3.3. The document set out several potential key themes and issues that the council consider important to address in the Local Plan Update and through this consultation sought to get views on any issues, opportunities or challenges that people felt needed to be addressed through the Local Plan Update.
- 3.4. The consultation had a total of 73 respondents. Of these, 53 were from individuals and 20 were from agents or their representatives. This report presents the summary of the responses of the consultation which is outlined in Background Paper 1: Consultation Summary Table (see link to website at end of the report) which lists the comments received from the 73 respondents.
- 3.5. The responses received do not raise any issues that prevent progressing the next stage of evidence base work needed to inform the Plan. The top three topics generating the highest number of responses were:
 - Homes in the Right Places
 - Climate Change
 - Infrastructure to Support our Needs

4. DETAIL

- 4.1. The Direction of Travel Document (DoT) includes consultation on the council's Vision & Objectives which scope work and evidence framework needed for the Local Plan update. In particular, the DoT identifies issues and challenges (grouped under relevant theme objectives) together with potential policy options across a range of planning topics, inviting views on these or whether other matters should also be included.
- 4.2. Workshops were held in December 2023 and January 2024 with Stakeholders and members prior to finalising the consultation version of the document.

- 4.3. The DoT document was subsequently approved to be used for public consultation. Under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 the DoT document must be published alongside a Regulation 18 Notice which must set out; the title of the Local Plan to be prepared; the Plan period; the area it covers (i.e. the Arun Local Planning Authority area); and invite representations on what the Plan should contain. This consultation was held between 25 March and 13 May 2024.
- 4.4. Background Paper 1: Consultation Summary Table (see link to web page at the end of this report) outlines the summary of the responses received during the Regulation 18 Consultation. Officers advise that there are no issues which prevent officers from progressing onto the next stages of the Local Plan Update.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. Officers will continue progressing the Local Plan Update and the contents of the consultation comments will be used where relevant to inform the next stage of Local Plan evidence base work in accordance with the Local Development Scheme.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. Four stakeholder workshops were conducted on 4 and 5 December 2023. A further stakeholder workshop in January 2024, and a member workshop in January 2024. This document is not setting out policy, it is intended as a means of undertaking early engagement with stakeholders leading to a subsequent public consultation inviting views on what should be included in the Local Plan Update, which took place from 25 March to 13 May 2024.

7. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 7.1. It is important to note that the proposed changes to the plan making system will provide additional safeguards against 'unplanned' development, but these safeguards are only triggered if there is an up-to-date Local Plan in place. Therefore, if it is considered important to reduce the risk of speculative development being approved that the Council should progress a new Local Plan as soon as possible. Whilst any further changes to the planning system by the new government is unknown, the Council needs to ensure that it accords with the current system until such time as new legislation is implemented. The current adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 has now been in place for 5 years (by July 2023). National policy requires that Local Plans are kept up to date and should be reviewed and updated within 5 years. The options are to agree to progress with the Local Plan update or not to agree with the risk that progress on the Local Plan update timetable is delayed.

8. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 8.1. The implementation of the recommendation accords with the key decision to lift the pause to the Local Plan update and the budget resource allocated to this task including the need to ensure that under or overspends are reported against the financial year and the councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1. Implementing the recommendation will help to minimise the risk that the council will fail to meet national policies and regulations for plan making.

10. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

- 10.1. There are no governance or legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 11.1. There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

12. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

- 12.1. No direct health and safety impacts identified in relation to the proposals within this report.

13. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

- 13.1. There are no direct implications for council property.

14. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

- 14.1. The proposals may have a positive impact on community health and wellbeing though engaging with stakeholders and the public on what should be included in the Arun Local Plan to address specific needs of sections of the community.

15. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

- 15.1. The DoT document does not have direct implications climate change although as plan making progresses informed by engagement and consultation, any potential positive and negative impacts of policies in the Local Plan update should balance and mitigate being subject to Sustainability Appraisal.

16. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 16.1. There are no direct adverse implications for crime and disorder.

17. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

- 17.1. There are no direct adverse implications for human rights.

18. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 18.1. There are no implications.
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CONTACT OFFICER:

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENT:

Background Paper 1: Consultation Summary Table - [Arun Local Plan Update 2023-2041 | Arun District Council](#)