

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Wellbeing Committee</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Arun Wellbeing Strategy</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Carrie Reynolds, Communities and Wellbeing Manager</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<i>Councillor Carol Birch – Chair of Housing and Wellbeing Committee</i>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>

**CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:**

Of all the responsibilities held by local government, none are more vital than creating places that promote good health and wellbeing. Arun District Council is uniquely positioned to influence the wider determinants of health, housing, education, environment, economic growth, and skills each of which play a fundamental role in shaping the lives and outcomes of our residents.

Through our Corporate Vision: A Better Future (2022-2026), we have defined four key themes that underpin our ambition to make Arun a better place to live, work, visit, and learn while delivering high-quality public services:

1. Improving the Wellbeing of Arun
2. Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
3. Supporting Our Environment to Support Us
4. Fulfilling Arun’s Economic Potential

**Under the theme of Improving the Wellbeing of Arun, our objectives are clear:**

- a) Promote and support a multi-agency response to tackle health inequalities, particularly in Arun’s most deprived communities.
- b) Champion leisure, sports, culture, and the arts, encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles.
- c) Work collaboratively with partners to provide advice, support, and initiatives that improve community wellbeing where they are needed most.

This Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2028 provides a framework to achieve these goals, ensuring that the Council maximises its role as an enabler, facilitator, and advocate for health and wellbeing across Arun.

**DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:**

**Our Commitment to Wellbeing**

To deliver on these objectives, Arun District Council will:

- a) Develop and implement a Wellbeing Strategy that integrates services, resources, and spaces to help our community thrive.
- b) Launch an annual Community Engagement Plan to encourage participation in a wide range of wellbeing activities (A Wellbeing Action Plan will be developed)
- c) Work collaboratively with key partners to ensure council wellbeing services complement, rather than duplicate, their efforts.

- d) Support the voluntary and community sector to provide services that assist the most vulnerable members of our community.
- e) Provide infrastructure that promotes wellbeing, including enhanced opportunities for walking and cycling, as well as accessible and safe green spaces.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

n/a

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the proposed Arun Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2028 (Appendix 1) to Members.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Housing and Wellbeing Committee:
  - 2.1.1 Endorses the work undertaken by Arun District Council and its partners in relation to improving the wellbeing of Arun.
  - 2.1.2 Adopts the Arun Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2028.

**3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 3.1 The council's corporate vision prioritises 'Improving the Wellbeing of Arun' as one of four key themes. As part of this commitment, the council has developed a Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2028 to guide the planning and delivery of services, resources, and activities that support community wellbeing.

- 3.2 The strategy is structured around four key ambitions:

- a) **Embedding health and wellbeing in all council processes** – Introducing a Wellbeing Impact Assessment as part of the committee consultation process. Officers preparing committee papers will be supported to incorporate this strategy and the impact of health and wellbeing into their reports.
- b) **Collaboration and advocacy** – Aligning council priorities with partners to maximise impact, avoid duplication, and advocate for appropriate service provision across Arun.
- c) **Targeting those most in need** – Ensuring that those most affected by health and wellbeing inequalities receive tailored support.
- d) **Supporting infrastructure organisations and reducing duplication** – Continuing to support key local institutions that provide vital services to residents.

**4. DETAIL**

- 4.1 The Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2028 recognises the council's unique role in delivering a wide range of services that directly impact the health and wellbeing of Arun residents. This is reflected in the council's corporate vision theme of 'Improving the Wellbeing of Arun.'

- 4.2 The local authority is not responsible for services that directly deliver on health, such as those provided by the NHS. However, the local authority delivers services that have a direct impact on the wider determinants of health. Having access to appropriate and good quality housing, inviting green spaces, a robust planning framework, driving business and economic growth, safer communities, leisure services and cultural opportunities and much more. To provide high quality public services results in improved wellbeing for those living in Arun. There is a direct causal link between these wider determinants and an individuals physical and mental health.
- 4.3 Partnership working is central to this strategy. The council is one of many organisations working to improve health and wellbeing, and collaboration is essential to achieving lasting impact.
- 4.4 The strategy also reflects national priorities, including the NHS Core20PLUS5 approach, which seeks to reduce health inequalities by focusing on the most disadvantaged 20% of the population.
- 4.5 The delivery of this strategy will be supported by:
- a) A dedicated Wellbeing Action Plan, which sets out key actions, performance measures, and milestones. This action plan will be agreed with stakeholders. Whilst the strategy belongs to Arun District Council, partners will be expected to contribute to the actions to support cross-sector working.
  - b) Annual reporting, providing transparency and accountability.
  - c) A cross-sector approach, working partners to ensure services reach those most in need.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The strategy was developed in collaboration with strategic partners from the Arun Local Community Network. Focus meetings were held with partners to draw out the framework for the strategy and ensure that the impact of the cross – sector approach could be realised.
- 5.2 A public consultation was conducted (see Appendix 2), which showed strong support for the four strategic ambitions outlined in the strategy. Whilst there was a relatively small response rate (104) this is typical for local authority public consultations. The responses given show broad support for the strategy and endorse the approach being taken.

## **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Alternative approaches were explored, including a narrower focus on direct service provision. However, the adopted approach ensures a broader, more sustainable impact, leveraging partnerships and resources to deliver maximum benefit for Arun residents.

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

7.1 No comment

**8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 When activities that are undertaken by this strategy, they will be risk assessed prior to delivery.

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

9.1 There are no specific legal implications for Arun District Council in adopting this Strategy.

9.2 The council has a specific statutory wellbeing power, allowing it to undertake any reasonable activity to support the wellbeing of residents.

**10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

10.1 No direct impact; however, staff training and development may be required to support the implementation of wellbeing initiatives.

**11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

11.1 The strategy includes actions to promote safe public spaces and improved access to physical activity opportunities, which will positively impact community health and safety. Our Wellbeing services are also offered to council staff and thereby also contributing to the organisations health and safety.

**12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

12.1 The strategy highlights the importance of investing in public spaces and improving the built environment to support health and wellbeing.

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

13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed, ensuring that the strategy actively addresses health inequalities and supports vulnerable groups that are specific within the Arun community.

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

14.1 The strategy promotes active travel, sustainable urban design, and green spaces, aligning with the Council's environmental objectives. Additionally, co-benefits of sustainability often line up with wider wellbeing benefits, including the benefits of having access to open green spaces on mental and physical health and improvements to air quality/noise pollution when active travel is supported.

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

15.1 The Safer Arun Partnership and delivery of the Community Safety Team within Arun contribute to reducing antisocial behaviour and crime, making Arun a safe place to live, improving on wellbeing.

**16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

16.1 The strategy upholds the right to health and wellbeing for all residents.

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

17.1 All data collected as part of strategy implementation will be managed in line with GDPR and FOI regulations.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

Appendix 1 – Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2028  
Appendix 2 - Public Consultation Report