

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF PLANNING POLICY SUB COMMITTEE ON 23 FEBRUARY 2021

SUBJECT: Arun Local Plan Update – Vision and Objectives

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DATE: February 2020
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PORTFOLIO AREA: Planning Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Council is updating the Arun Local Plan 2018 following a Full Council decision on 15 January 2020. Following a series of 3 member workshops and a Question & Answer Session, a draft Vision & Objectives have been proposed in order to steer work and monitor progress on the plan update. The Vision & Objectives accommodate a range of member views and reflect emerging best practice and national policy. This first step is the early stage of plan preparation. The Council will now engage with all stakeholders and the community on the plan preparation, following which, there will be scope for further alignment with infrastructure, utility and housing providers, businesses and communities in helping to delivering the authority's aspirations through supporting the plan update.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Planning Policy Sub Committee agrees: -

1. That the Vision & Objectives are referred on to Full Council on 17 March 2021 for adoption.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 In December 2019 the Planning Policy Sub-committee agreed that monitoring the housing delivery performance of the Arun Local Plan 2018 (ALP2018), and reviewing the content of the Plan, justified the need for a review of Policy H SP1 'The Housing Requirement' and that consequently, the ALP2018 should be updated. The background to the decision is set out in the report to Planning Policy Sub-Committee 17 December 2019 (Background Paper 1) . The decision was approved by Full Council 15 January 2020 (Background Paper 2).

- 1.2 The Council updated and adopted its Local Development Scheme in July 2020 and this sets out a timetable for updating the Development Management policies and standards (a key priority having declared a 'Climate Change Emergency' and also set out its environmental and equality priorities) together with Strategic Policies in order to adopt an updated Local Plan by the end of 2023. The current stage of Vision & Objectives setting is therefore, at the start of the process of updating its Local Plan.
- 1.3 In order to formulate the Vision & Objectives, which will help to define the scope of the Local Plan, the Council's aspirations over the plan period and how these will be achieved, the following work was undertaken:-
- Background paper setting out the national and local policy context and examples of best practice for plan making;
 - Video presentation;
 - Member Feedback form;
 - Question & Answer Session 9 December 2020;
 - Workshop 1: 17 December 2020;
 - Workshop 2: 18 January 2021;
 - Workshop 3 (including consolidation of wording): 20 January 2021;
- 1.4 The approach to the workshops was to explore the Member feedback forms, and Q&A discussion and, following a presentation by the Council's appointed consultant; DAC Planning (also working for Planning Advisory Service on best practice for plan making), there was member discussion on the scope for the plan and priorities for the Vision & Objectives.
- 1.5 The proposed Vision & Objectives that Officers consider reflect the general discussions at these workshops is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. It is important to remember that these are over-arching themes and they are not and should not be too specific; that is the purpose of the policies that will be formulated from these objectives and evidence.
- 1.6 The Vision & Objectives will shape the commissioning of work to deliver the plan making programme set out in the adopted Local Development Scheme July 2020. The Vision & Objectives will also aid community engagement as a context for meeting Parish Councils, communities, including business and environmental groups, in the spring through virtual webinars. This process may be used to help align stakeholder strategies and in turn inform the Council's Vision & Objectives where the Vision and Objectives may need refining e.g. to accommodate Sustainability Appraisal scoping.
- 1.7 In formulating the Vision – officers have proposed some editing to ensure that it is concise and effective for community engagement (e.g. through webinars with key stakeholders in the spring) but it does not lose member aspirations, by ensuring that these are covered in the more detailed objectives.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

To agree the proposed Vision & Objectives and for it to be referred to Full Council for approval in order to set the scope and shape the work of the Local Plan update.

3. OPTIONS:

The following options are available to Members:

1. To agree the Vision & Objectives in order progress the Local Plan update and engagement with other stakeholders;
2. Not to agree the Vision & Objectives which would risk delaying the preparation and eventual adoption of an up to date 'sound' Local Plan to guide local decision making.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		x
Relevant District Ward Councillors		x
Other groups/persons (please specify)		x
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal		x
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		x
Sustainability	x	
Asset Management/Property/Land		x
Technology		x
Other (please explain)		x

6. IMPLICATIONS:

An updated Local Plan shaped by a Vision & Objectives, will enable the authority to ensure that determination of planning applications is based on local sustainable polices and aspirations.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

The Vision & Objectives are necessary to ensure that the aspirations of the authority are delivered together with a sound up to date and sustainable Local Plan with which to determine planning applications.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Background Paper 1 - Planning policy Sub-Committee 17 December 2019:

<https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/documents/g671/Printed%20minutes%2017th-Dec-2019%2018.00%20Planning%20Policy%20Sub-Committee.pdf?T=1>

Background Paper 2 - Decision of Full Council 15 January 2020:

<https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/documents/g771/Printed%20minutes%2015th-Jan-2020%2018.00%20Full%20Council.pdf?T=1>

Background Paper 3 - Local Development Scheme July 2020: _

<https://www.arun.gov.uk/local-development-scheme-lds>

Appendix 1 Proposed Vision and Objectives

Vision

By 2036, Arun residents will share in a higher quality of life for all. By living in places safe from flooding and resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, all generations will live securely in the years to come. Arun's people will enjoy more sustainable, inclusive, healthier lives through access to secure local food and energy production; a range of skilled and higher-paying jobs; and modern learning opportunities, Arun will have a greener, regenerated economy focussed in centres.

Objectives

Economy & Infrastructure

Arun will develop a thriving economy, and achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030 by:-

- Ensuring high quality infrastructure and skills provision supports local business growth, especially in the areas of green enterprise and technology and attracts inward investment and quality new employers to increase wealth and earnings;
- Enabling the visitor, culture, leisure and hospitality sectors to regenerate high streets and the towns of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis, the historic attraction of Arundel and the rural economy;
- Supporting high quality education and the prospectus of skills offered by schools, colleges and universities through encouraging collaborative partnerships, research and development campus facilities, leading to innovation and diversification;
- Seeking to retain post graduate skills and the provision of appropriate workspace for start-up businesses;
- Focussing economic investment in locations where high skilled networks can flourish;
- Continue to support and facilitate the delivery of high quality and advanced digital infrastructure.

Sustainable Communities

- Seek to stablish a network of vibrant, "20-minute Neighbourhoods" respecting distinct local character, culture, diversity and heritage, which allow all generations and abilities to engage in healthy/active lifestyles within a 20 minute walk/cycle catchment to work, schools, services, food, leisure and entertainment.

Place making

- New development should deliver the necessary infrastructure to support its needs and to mitigate its impacts and is viable across a range of site sizes, mixes and phases;
- Existing and proposed communities should be protected from flooding and the risk of flooding prevented elsewhere through avoiding development in areas at risk of flooding and through building resilience (e.g. through SUDS and innovative design);
- The Council will insist on high quality design to improve the quality, appearance and use of buildings, streets and communal areas and particularly greening and tree planting;
- That places and spaces are adaptive and resilient to the adverse effects of climate change (e.g. extreme heating, cooling and drought);
- That Arun's heritage is protected and conserved;
- That, through new development, the local identity of existing settlements is protected;
- Require that new buildings are constructed to the highest available energy efficiency standards, and that the construction of new buildings are carbon-neutral. All buildings should be easily adaptable to the changing needs of the people and the planet.

Environment

Arun's rich natural environment, coast, landscapes and rural economy will be protected and enhanced through:-

- Opportunities for allocating land for additional sequestration of carbon (e.g. via tree planting or carbon capture technology) to achieve negative carbon emissions by the end of the plan period at the latest;
- Conservation and protection of outstanding landscapes, coastal gaps, high quality farmland and areas of historic character;
- Delivering effective coastal change management to ensure people, places and natural habitat are protected and do not add to coastal and fluvial flooding;
- Securing opportunities for coastal and fluvial flood alleviation measures to assist with habitat enhancement and water quality standards;
- Protecting and conserving key natural habitats and securing net additional biodiversity gains within developments.

