

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: Arun Local Plan Update – Evidence Base

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DATE: 30 November 2020
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PORTFOLIO AREA: Planning Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report updates Members on the current and pending evidence studies being progressed to inform the update of the Arun Local Plan 2018 and is for noting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Planning Policy Sub Committee notes the evidence update report.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 On 15 January 2020 the Council decided to update the adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 (ALP2018). A key step is for the Council to formulate a draft Vision & Objectives which have now been drafted following three member workshops (17 December 2020 and 18 and 20 January 2021). The Vision & Objectives will help to shape the work to be undertaken in order to update the Local Plan and to deliver the authority's aspirations (the draft Vision & Objectives is reported separately on the agenda).
- 1.2 The Council also updated its Local Development Scheme in July 2020. This set the overall plan making timetable and reflects the Council's priorities for urgently updating the Development Management policies in the ALP2018 (e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy and low carbon, including protection from flooding and mitigation and adaptation to climate change). This work can subsequently be integrated with the need to update Strategic policies rolling forward the plan to 2036 before progressing the plan for examination and adoption.
- 1.3 The current and future programme of work and studies is outlined below:-

2020

- **Active Travel Study (Part 1)** – study commissioned; to engage with stakeholders,

capture and establish the 'active travel' network and the current opportunities and priorities for joining this up;

- **Update to Arun Transport Model** – early engagement; to develop a District-wide model jointly with West Sussex County Council (which meets Highways England validation) with which to inform the Local Plan update, based on the A259 Corridor Study with the road network grossed up to the District and neighbouring authorities (which delivers cost savings);
- **Tourism & Visitor Accommodation** – study brief being formulated; looking at establishing a baseline of visitor and tourism accommodation, leisure attractions and providers, and their future requirements, in order to regenerate the sector in Arun and follows the Council's resolution in September 2020 at the Covid Recovery Working Party. The study will require additional separate budget provision to be made through a request for a Supplementary Estimate to Cabinet on 22 March 2021 - circa £15k.

Spring 2021

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment (SEA/SA HRA)** - study brief being drafted; to commission early scoping of the Local Plan environmental, social and economic baseline indicators, with which to measure and refine the Local Plan Vision and Objectives and policy development with any necessary mitigation;
- **Climate Change and Sustainable Design Standards** – study brief being drafted; to commission work on energy efficiency performance; water consumption, renewable and low carbon energy supply (including integration of digital infrastructure);
- **Biodiversity Study**– study brief being drafted; to establish and confirm with stakeholders that the baseline habitat assets are up to date against which to formulate updated Local Plan policies to deliver the 'biodiversity net gain' (proposed in the Environment Bill). Following the Full Council Motion in September 2020 (put by Cllr Thurston) the Biodiversity Study evidence work will feed into, and be supported by, a separate Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to coordinate the actions of all stakeholders and this BAP will require additional separate budget provision to be made through a request for a Supplementary Estimate to Cabinet on 22 March 2021 - circa £15k;
- **'Placemaking and 20 minute Communities' Study** – study brief being drafted; to commission work on scoping 'place making' and connectivity opportunities (including role of digital infrastructure) within Arun.

Summer/Autumn 2021

- **Housing Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) Study** – testing the Government's Standard Housing Methodology figure for Arun against the special needs of the population, including affordable housing needs and economic aspirations;
- **Transport Modelling** – scenario testing to allocate infrastructure to support the development strategy and placemaking, through delivery of necessary mitigation schemes;
- **Active Travel Study Part 2** – to identify further linkages that may be needed to join up 'placemaking' based on emerging spatial distribution
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment SFRA** – refresh to begin once the Environment Agency work on the peak river and rainfall flood allowances are reflected in PPG.

Spring 2022

- **Retail Study** – setting out the health and vitality of shopping facilities, and the quantity and future need for retail shopping floorspace, based on the growth in the population, capacity, turnover and market share;
- **Landscape Study** – setting out the quality, value and extent of sensitive landscapes in Arun;
- **Green Infrastructure Study** – setting out the baseline green infrastructure network and necessary enhancements, generated by development and need to support ‘place making’;
- **Heritage and Conservation Area studies** – to ensure that the evidence base and any necessary assessments of Conservation Areas is kept up to date;
- **Infrastructure Development Plan** – setting out a programme of necessary supporting community, health and transport infrastructure etc.;
- **Viability Study** – ‘whole Plan’ including ‘affordable housing’ viability.

1.4 The programme above reflects the need to advance work on Development Management policies and standards as this Council’s priority. Subsequent studies are scheduled to provide the strategic policy update (i.e. the scale of housing and employment need, development allocations and opportunities for sustainable ‘place making’ deliverable within the infrastructure and environmental capacity of Arun District).

1.5 The above work programme may be subject to change, which may be necessary arising from Government signalled changes to the planning system, further policy updates and any long term adjustments arising from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Further updates on plan preparation work and supporting evidence studies will be reported regularly to this Planning Policy Sub-Committee.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

To note the evidence base update report.

3. OPTIONS:

The following options are available to Members:

1. To note the report;
2. Not to note the report.

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:

The commissioning of evidence to support the Local Plan update will help to deliver a 'sound' Local Plan which will aid local decision making and ensure that development is sustainable and meets the Council's aspirations, including securing the steps necessary to address the Climate Change Emergency. The commissioning of evidence has a financial impact on the authority however, this has been budgeted for.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

The evidence update report is to keep members informed on the progress on commissioning work to support the update of the Arun Local Plan 2018.