

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE ON 1 JUNE 2021

REPORT

SUBJECT: Arun Local Plan Update – Evidence Base
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REPORT AUTHOR:	Kevin Owen – Planning Policy Team Leader
DATE:	04 May 2021
EXTN:	x 37853
AREA:	Planning

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 Committee note the evidence update report.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 At the Planning Policy Sub Committee Meeting on 23 February 2021 members noted a report updating the position on the evidence preparation timetable.

Evidence Studies

- 1.2 Briefs have now been produced for the Tourism & Visitor Accommodation Study, Biodiversity (Net Gain Study) and Climate Change and Sustainable Design Study. The studies envisage a start in June (depending on the plan making timetable being resolved for the Local Development Scheme) with reporting final outcomes in the new year 2022.

Local Development Scheme

- 1.3 The Council updated its Local Development Scheme (LDS) in June 2020 (Background paper 1) which was adopted by Full Council on 22 July 2020 (Background paper 2). However, the LDS needs to be kept up to date and will now need amending because of the slippage in progressing the Council's Vision & Objectives needed to steer the evidence work. A report will be taken to the next Planning Policy Committee meeting on 25 July 2021 seeking agreement to a revised LDS for subsequent adoption by Full Council.

Statement of Community Involvement

- 1.4 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by Full Council in January 2019 sets out the Council's various methods it will use to consult with residents, businesses and organisations in Arun in order to help shape plan making and decision making in accordance with with plan making regulations. The SCI also needs to be kept up to date for the Local Plan Update (it is subject to the examination of the plan).
- 1.5 The SCI was adopted in spring 2019 but the Government published interim Planning Policy Guidance and regulations in the summer 2020 to accommodate Covid-19 related social distancing restrictions (i.e. temporarily dispensing with the requirement for documentation to be deposited at publicly accessible inspection points, as set out in Regulation 35 the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). An immediate review of the SCI was approved at the meeting of 30 June 2020 (see Background paper 1) which explained this temporary change and the measures the Council would use to try to compensate e.g. using web based consultation techniques etc. This temporary dispensation is unlikely to continue with easing of lockdown. In order to keep the SCI up to date a report will be made to the next Planning Policy Committee meeting on 25 July setting out how the SCI may need to be updated.
- 1.6 At future meetings, further updates will be provided where there is anything significant to report on pregressing the commissioning of the other evidence studies.

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.		
8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: Background paper 1 Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement (Immediate Review): - https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=182&MId=1309 Background paper 2 Local Development Scheme Adoption Full Council 22 July 2020:- https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=1389		