

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

REPORT

SUBJECT: Arun Local Plan Update – Creating Healthy Places – A Public Health and Sustainability Framework for West Sussex

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DATE:	04 May 2021
EXTN:	x 37853
AREA:	Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks agreement for the framework document 'Creating Healthy & Sustainable Places' published by West Sussex County Council and Public Health England to be a material consideration for Development Management decisions in the Arun local planning authority area, in accordance with policies HWB SP1, OSR DM1 & D DM1 of the adopted Arun Local Plan (2018).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Planning Policy Committee approves: -

1. That the published document 'Creating Healthy & Sustainable Places' is approved as a material consideration for informing development management decisions subject to negotiation and development viability.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The document 'Creating Healthy & Sustainable Places' (CHSP) published by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) in collaboration with Public Health England (PHE) and other stakeholders, is aimed at a range of stakeholders in the development industry and public sector. The document provides guidance on how to intergrate health and wellbeing into sustainable development, placemaking and tackling climate change from a health perspective, and also 'sign posts' toolkits and inforamtion sources and strategies. The document states:-

"West Sussex County Council has a responsibility for delivering positive health and well-being outcomes for its residents. This framework provides public health guidance to decision makers about creating healthy and sustainable places and communities in West Sussex. It includes a toolkit that aims to provide background evidence, signposting to information and tools in order to assist users to achieve

healthier places across West Sussex including ways in which to incorporate health, wellbeing and sustainability outcomes as part of healthy and sustainable placemaking.”

1.2 The guidance in the CHSP document attempts to set out overarching principles that decision makers should consider in creating healthy and sustainable places from a health perspective – the six headlines are summarised below :-

- Social cohesion and participation:
- Healthy housing;
- Resilient built public infrastructure and services:
- Safe and sustainable travel options:
- Prosperous and sustainable economy:
- Thriving and accessible natural environments.

1.3 There are fifteen supporting objectives:-

- Avoid and mitigate adverse health and sustainability impacts from development;
- Provide safe, healthy and sustainable living and recreational environments;
- Provide convenient and equitable access to innovative models of health and care services and social infrastructure;
- Design in opportunities to promote and facilitate healthy lifestyles: pattern of development (mixed use), movement/connectivity and urban design quality to promote active travel, physical activity and mental well-being; storage.
- It is vital to consider all four aspects of health and wellbeing equally – mental, social, physical and economic as part of place making;
- Promote access to fresh, healthy and locally sourced food: e.g., community gardens, allotments and local enterprises;
- Make use of inclusive design to design better-connected places;
- Ensure that developments embody the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods and promote independent living;
- Create environments that are more socially inclusive;
- Design settlements that are less demanding on resources and more resilient;
- Respond to global and local environmental issues;
- Co-locate community facilities;
- Embrace the smart technologies;
- Recognise people and places are assets to unlock the power of communities;
- Make use of place-based interventions;

1.4 Many of these principles and objectives are already familiar in plan making – indeed Arun’s adopted Local Plan 2018 includes a section dealing with Health and Wellbeing supported by policies:-

- HWB SP1: Health & Welbeing;
- OSR DM1 Open sapce sport and recreation;
- D DM1: Allotments

- 1.5 The document goes on to promote a 'toolkit' to integrate these considerations into decision making i.e. a 'Health Impact Assessment' (HIA). The use of HIA is increasingly being integrated with Sustainability Appraisal as part of plan making. Arun has already and will continue, to integrate HIA as part of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and plan making. The approach to the Local Plan update will adopt this integrated HIA/SA methodology and be guided by an overarching Vision and Objectives that address health and wellbeing.
- 1.6 For planning applications, the CHPS document suggests that decision makers consider options to improve the use of HIA in development management processes and provide guidance on how to carry out HIA's.
- 1.7 The CHSP document goes on to clarify that HIA should only apply to 'significant applications'; local planning authorities can set out where they should be requested, based on Triggers e.g. where proposals represent major development, relate to schools and health and social care provision, leisure provision and in areas of deprivation or where particular vulnerable groups may arise.
- 1.8 Going forward, Arun's Local Plan update should build in this consideration in order to provide the policy hooks and viability evidence to require measures set out under section 1.8 above, to be incorporated into Development Management processes where appropriate.
- 1.9 In the interim, mindful of the WSCC and PHE clarification of the status of this CHSP document, and the narrow focus of Adopted policies in the Local Plan, it is nevertheless, open to Arun District Council to approve this document as a material consideration (i.e. providing an 'best practice' information and evidence source) in order to request health and HIA information with which to inform the development manage significant decisions - but subject to negotiation and viability, in order to encourage improved health quality integration with sustainable place making for significant and relevant types of developments.

Next Steps

- 1.10 The update of the Arun Local Plan will eventually provide an updated health and wellbeing policy framework which will then allow formal adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents as appropriate, following testing of evidence on deliverability and development viability through examination and adoption of policies in the new Local Plan.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

To agree the document 'Creating Healthy & Sustainable Places' published by West Sussex County Council and Public Health England be approved as a material consideration to inform Development Management decisions.

3. OPTIONS:

The following options are available to Members:

1. To agree the recommendation;
2. Not to agree the recommendation.

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: <p>The approval of the CHSP document as material consideration must be on the basis of encouraging best practice on health and wellbeing through development management (i.e. subject to negotiation and development viability) processes until formal local plan policies tested at examination can permit formal adoption of such guidance as SPD.</p>		
7. REASON FOR THE DECISION: <p>The CHSP document provides a body of information and best practice techniques that can help to encourage integration of health and wellbeing with sustainability objectives leading to better quality developments benefiting all sections of Arun's community.</p>		
8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: <p>Background paper 1: 'Creating Healthy & Sustainable Places' published by West Sussex County Council and Public Health England:-</p> <p>https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21906/Agenda%20Item%209%20-%20Appendix.pdf</p>		

