

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE ON 20 JULY 2021

REPORT

SUBJECT: Arun Infrastructure Investment Plan Update
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DATE:	23 June 2021
EXTN:	x 37853
AREA:	Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report updates Members on the preparation timetable of the Arun Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP). The Governance and timetable were originally agreed by Full Council in January 2021. However, the timetable for formal consultation and approval of the IIP needs to be adjusted in order allow providers more scope to improve evidence on proposed projects for inclusion within the IIP following initial engagement. In addition to accommodate the new Committee timetable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Planning Policy Committee agree the updated timetable for the preparation, consultation and approval of the Arun Infrastructure Investment Plan 2022-2023.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 At the Planning Policy Sub-Committee meeting in December 2020 members considered the Arun Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) preparation timetable, methodology and Governance arrangements and these were agreed and subsequently approved at Full Council (FC) in January 2020.
- 1.2 The IIP is the priority list of infrastructure projects set out in a 3 year spending programme (2022-2023), that the Council will allocated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds towards, in order to deliver strategic and off-site infrastructure necessary to mitigate the impact of development, generated by the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 as well as any windfall development that is CIL liable.
- 1.3 The methodology and timetable included early engagement with infrastructure providers, neighbouring authorities, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and Town and Parish Councils, on potential project spending bids to be assessed and

prioritised for inclusion within the first IIP.

- 1.4 As a result of the early engagement exercise (which issued proforma and a questionnaire, in March/April, seeking specific information and evidence with which to assess and prioritise returned project spending bids) it became evident that there was insufficient evidence in the form of necessary business plans or forward investment plans. These are necessary to justify inclusion and allocation of CIL money, even if a project scores highly against the other prioritisation criteria. This isn't surprising as it is typically a feature (based on the experience of other CIL charging authorities) when preparing the first IIP, that very few infrastructure projects are 'oven ready' and there is likely therefore, to be a need to accumulate CIL for spending over a longer term than within the first IIP 3 year period, for many infrastructure projects. This potential scenario was also signaled in the report covering the Council's Governance arrangements.
- 1.5 However, following the first joint Member/Officer Liaison meeting (tasked with agreeing a draft IIP for consultation) in June with WSCC, it was considered that infrastructure providers, and Town and Parish Councils should be given more specific guidance on the need for business plans and forward investment plans or similar evidence (as well as evidence of project costs and monies already secured) and an opportunity to work these up in support of their respective project bids.
- 1.6 In addition, the meeting noted that the new Arun Committee system had altered the decision timetable for approving the IIP which originally envisaged a meeting of Planning Policy Committee (PPC) in October/November followed by adoption at FC in December 2021 - with the IIP coming into operation in January 2022. There is now no scheduled FC meeting in December. Therefore, (and in order to accommodate the added engagement proposed to sufficiently evidence project bids) a revised timetable is proposed for approval of the IIP at a scheduled FC meeting in March 2022. This would allow the IIP to operate on a financial year footing (i.e. 1st April 2022).

Next Steps

- 1.7 The Timetable in Appendix 1 to this report sets out the proposed revised arrangement for preparing the IIP and members are asked to agree it.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

To agree the revised timetable for preparation of the IIP.

3. OPTIONS:

The following options are available to Members:

1. To agree the report;
2. Not to agree 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 IIP preparation and timetable is critical for allocating CIL funding towards necessary infrastructure provision to mitigate the impacts of growth.		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION: To ensure that development is sustainable in Arun through the provision of necessary strategic off-site infrastructure that mitigates the impacts of planned growth as set out in the Arun local Plan 2018 including the mitigation of any permitted windfall development.
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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.

Appendix 1: Proposed Revised IIP Preparation Timetable Financial year start to IIP (1st April 2022)

- Informal meeting - CIL Officer/Member Liaison – September
- Formal consultation draft IIP October
- Informal meeting - CIL Officer/Member Liaison – November/Dec
- Member Briefing February 2022
- Draft IIP for agreement - Planning Policy Committee – 25 January 2022
- Approval of IIP – Full Council – 9 March 2022