

Updated Local Strategic Statement for Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton

Report by the Director for the Economy

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Local Strategic Statement for Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton is the main vehicle for taking forward the Strategic Planning Board's work on behalf of the member Local Planning Authorities. It sets out the strategic objectives and the spatial priorities for delivering these and enables our wider stakeholder partners, who have contributed much to the statement, to understand our direction of travel and engage with us on a continuous basis.
- 1.2 The first Local Strategic Statement was approved by Joint Strategic Committee in December 2013. The refresh is considered necessary to reflect the growth of the Board with the addition of Mid Sussex District Council and Horsham District Council, a changing planning context at both local and national levels and a more informed understanding of what the strategic objectives and the spatial priorities should be and how they will be delivered.
- 1.3 The Local Strategic Statement is also further evidence to support the Council's approach to the Localism Act and its 'Duty to Co-operate'.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In October 2012 the local planning authorities (LPAs) in Coastal West Sussex, together with the South Downs National Park Authority, West Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and Lewes District Council (CWS&GB) agreed to establish a new Strategic Planning Board to facilitate joint work on strategic planning priorities. Over the intervening period the work of the Board has evolved which has led to firstly Mid Sussex District Council joining, followed more recently by Horsham District Council.

The Board's remit is to:

- (1) identify and manage spatial planning issues that impact on more than one local planning area within CWS&GB; and

- (2) support better integration and alignment of strategic spatial and investment priorities in CWS&GB, ensuring that there is a clear and defined route through the statutory local planning process, where necessary.

- 2.2 The Board, which comprises lead Councillors from each of the LPAs works in an advisory capacity with all decision-making through the individual member authorities. It works closely with the Coastal West Sussex Partnership (CWSP) which brings together organisations and people from the business, education and public sectors to work collectively on economic issues that affect the area. Both bodies have responsibility between them for ensuring that strategic planning and investment issues are addressed locally through the relevant local authorities and organisations, and within a wider context, particularly through the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership and the Coast to Capital Local Transport Body. They also have responsibility for providing a framework for aligning strategic spatial and investment priorities with the business plans of other public and private sector bodies operating in the CWS&GB area.
- 2.3 The LSS focuses on the strategic issues that are shared across CWS&GB or that will impact on the long term sustainability of the area, providing an overlay for local plans and the business priorities of key stakeholders. Unlike local plans, however, the LSS is currently not a statutory document and therefore relies on the voluntary consensus of all partners around the shared ambitions and priorities. To this end the LSS which has been subject to extensive consultation with other planning authorities, infrastructure providers and other appropriate consultees.
- 2.4 The first Local Strategic Statement for Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (LSS) was created to be the main vehicle for taking forward the Board's work on behalf of the LPAs. It set out the long term Strategic Objectives for the period 2013-2031 and the Spatial Priorities for delivering these in the short to medium term (2013-2020). Many are already being addressed through the planning system albeit at very different stages, but all will benefit from a coordinated approach across the area, both in terms of planning and investment.
- 2.5 With the addition of Mid Sussex District Council and Horsham District Council coupled with a changing planning context at both local and national levels, together with a more informed understanding of what the strategic objectives and the spatial priorities should be and how they will be delivered, the Board agreed that the LSS should be updated and the timeframes for the LSS moved forward.
- 2.6 The main changes to the existing LSS are:
 - Four new Spatial Priorities: Brighton Seafront & City Centre (SP6) / Burgess Hill (SP7) / Newhaven (SP8) / Rural Sussex (SP9)
 - Added emphasis on implementation with new implementation sections under each Strategic Objective and Spatial Priority.
 - New (draft) Monitoring and Delivery Framework (Annex 4 of LSS).

2.7 Specifically for the Adur and Worthing areas the revised LSS reflects the current position, particularly regarding housing. There have not been any significant amendments made to the existing spatial priorities in Adur and Worthing: Shoreham Harbour & Brighton Airport, Shoreham (SP1) and Worthing's Key Town Centre Sites (SP4).

2.7 The final version of the revised LSS was considered by the Board at its meeting on the 18th January when it was agreed that it should now return to the constitute authorities for endorsement.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 The Strategic Objectives and Spatial Priorities set out in the updated LSS will be implemented through a number of different routes and by different organisations working together, often with the local authorities in a lead coordinating role.

4.0 Legal

4.1 The document helps to evidence how the local planning authorities have complied with the duty to co-operate, which is required by Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

4.2 The duty to co-operate is developed further in the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) which is a material planning consideration. The NPPF places great weight on the 'duty' in relation to planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those that relate to strategic priorities.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 The Joint Strategic Committee approved funding for Coastal West Sussex (£9,000 from each Council for 2013/14 and 2014/15) and made an additional contribution of £2000 for the production of the original LSS. The cost of the LSS update and any subsequent related work will come out of existing budgets.

5.2 Officer time will be needed for the review of the LSS as well as to progress other planning work as requested by the Strategic Planning Board. However, the main funding impact will arise from the delivery of the LSS and this is to be secured by a variety of bodies through a range of plans and strategies (including local plans). A range of external funding sources will be sought e.g. from developers via CIL and S106 as well as through Government and EU.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 That the respective Executive Members for Regeneration approve the revised Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement (January 2016).

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

- Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement - 2013
- Revised Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement - Jan 2016

Contact Officer:

Ian Moody
Principal Planning Officer
Portland House
01273 263009
ian.moody@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Schedule of other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Supporting and improving the local economy and promoting health and wellbeing.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 (A) To provide evidence to support the progress of the Adur and Worthing Local Plans.
(B) To meet the Duty to Co-operate requirements as set out in the Localism Act (2011).

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 The LSS and the Local Plans will help to secure a number of social and economic objectives taking account of environmental constraints.

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 The LSS and the local plan work aim to ensure that all groups in the District and Borough have equal access to the opportunities offered by new development - jobs and homes – as well as new infrastructure.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 New development and infrastructure delivered by the LSS and local plans will lead to more prosperous and inclusive communities.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 No negative issues have been identified at this stage. Meeting housing needs is a human rights issue.

7.0 Reputation

7.1 The reputation of the Councils could be impacted on account of failing to meet Duty to Co-operate requirements with respect to the progress of Local Plans.

8.0 Consultations

8.1 The LSS refresh has been subject to stakeholder consultation and views taken into account in its drafting. The CWS Strategic Planning Board has steered the LSS.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 There is a statutory duty on the Councils to produce local plans and to co-operate with adjoining local authorities on cross boundary issues in line with the NPPF and the Localism Act. There are risks to local plans being found unsound if this duty is not met.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 The LSS was jointly commissioned by the authority members of CWS with Arun District taking responsibility for the contract with the consultant.

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 The LSS has been produced to help the duty to co-operate requirements for emerging local plans. The MoU and Agreement will help to foster a partnership approach to meeting future development needs in the sub region.