

**WORTHING
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**WORTHING
LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME**

MARCH 2019



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COUNCIL**

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I Introduction

- 1.1 Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a public 'project plan', or in other terms, a timetable identifying which planning policy documents will be produced and when. It establishes a three year work programme that allows stakeholders to understand the current and proposed planning policy framework for the area and the associated resource implications. This version of the LDS, when adopted, will cover the period 2019-2021 and will supersede the previous version published by the Council in 2017.
- 1.2 Changes to the planning system at the national level, with the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) being published in 2018, have had significant implications for the work programme for preparing a new Local Plan for Worthing. This LDS sets out an up-to-date work programme for the production of the Worthing Local Plan, including key milestones and information on when people will have an opportunity to be involved in the process.

2 What is the current Development Plan?

- 2.1 At the time of publishing this LDS the Development Plan for Worthing consists of:
 - Worthing Core Strategy 2011
 - Saved policies from the Worthing Local Plan 2003 (see appendix 6 of the Core Strategy)
- 2.2 West Sussex County Council is the Minerals and Waste local planning authority and the policy framework for these matters is contained in:
 - West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan – 2018 (WSCC & South Downs National Park Authority)
 - West Sussex Waste Local Plan – 2014
- 2.3 In addition to the above, the Council has published a number of non-statutory planning guidance documents which have been produced to support planning policies. These will continue to be material planning considerations as long as the principles are in general conformity with national policy (see paragraph 6.3).

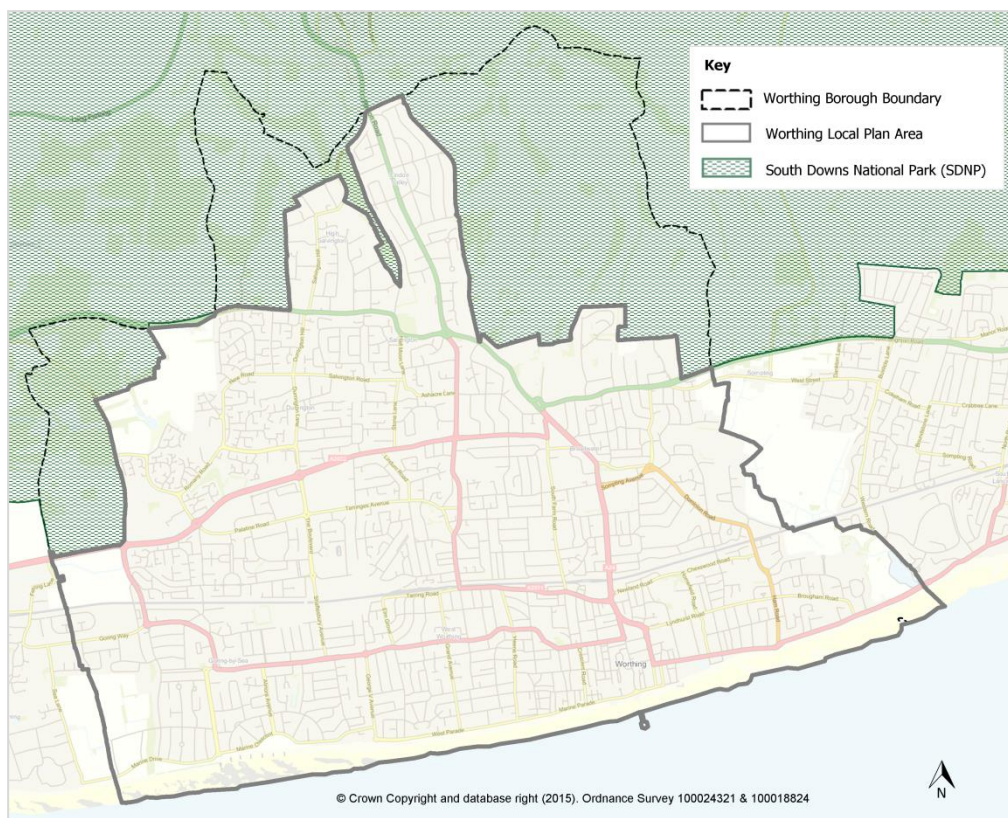
3 The New Local Plan

- 3.1 The Council adopted its Core Strategy in 2011. Following on from this, the Council established a work programme to support and deliver the Vision, Strategic Objectives and policies that had been established. A number of documents to support these aims were put in place. However, in response to changes to the planning system, the Council committed to a review of the Core Strategy and thus the preparation of a new Local Plan for Worthing.
- 3.2 The process of preparing a new Local Plan is made up of a number of specific stages. The first stage of consultation, the 'Issues and Options' stage was undertaken in 2016 when the Council sought views on how Worthing should grow and develop. The responses received helped to inform the drafting of the next version of the draft Plan (Regulation 18 -

Preferred Approach) which was subject to public consultation between October and December 2018. This consultation identified the need for additional evidence work to be carried out.

- 3.3 The new Worthing Local Plan, when adopted, will become the primary basis upon which all planning decisions are made in the Borough. It will contain Development Management policies and site allocations for a range of uses including housing and employment. Whilst the Worthing Local Plan is the only Development Plan Document programmed within this LDS other areas work will be progressed by the Planning Policy Team (see section 6).
- 3.4 As reported below, good work has been made on the progression of the new Local Plan and most of the steps and targets set out in the previous version of the LDS have been met. However, to allow adequate time for further evidence gathering and stages of consultation the timetable for Local Plan progression has been extended. This is reflected within the table at the end of this document.
- 3.5 The Local Plan will cover Worthing Borough excluding the area within the South Downs National Park (see map below). The South Downs National Park Authority is the local planning authority for the South Downs National Park area.

Area to be covered by the Worthing Local Plan



4 The Plan Making Process

- 4.1 The process of preparing and adopting Development Plans is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. A summary of this process is set out below and then incorporated within the work programme. It is recommended that the LDS is read in conjunction with the Councils' emerging Joint Statement of Community Involvement (2019) which sets out the statutory process and consultation methods that the Councils must undertake when preparing new Local Plans.

Evidence

- 4.2 Plans must be prepared within the context of national policy. They should be in accordance with this unless strong local evidence indicates that variation from this would provide better outcomes in the specific local context. As reported within the Council's Annual Monitoring Report a number of background studies have been published (or are being progressed) to ensure that the evidence base is up-to-date.
- 4.3 A key part of the evidence base is the sustainability appraisal. The appraisal is a systematic, iterative process, integrated into each phase of Plan production to ensure that the Plan proposes the most sustainable pattern of future development possible.
- 4.4 A statutory Duty to Co-operate has formalised working arrangements between Councils and service providers. This ensures partners are fully engaged in the plan preparation process. Work to address the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate will continue and is reported within the Annual Monitoring Report and the Interim Duty to Co-operate statement.

Public Participation and Engagement

- 4.5 Community involvement is a key component in shaping the content of the Local Plan. This is an iterative process involving several rounds of engagement in addition to ongoing discussions with interested parties. Public participation is guided by the Councils' Statement of Community Involvement and the scale and nature of community involvement will vary according to the stage reached.
- 4.6 Planning regulations encourage extensive early public participation in the preparation of the Local Plan. In response to this, the Council launched the review in 2015 to explain the context of this work and encourage all interested parties to participate in the development of the Plan. Subsequently, an Issues and Options consultation was undertaken in summer 2016. This consultation identified the challenges facing the borough and the options that could help address them. The Council asked for views on how best to balance growth and regeneration across the borough to meet future needs whilst at the same time protecting the things that are valued about the town. Comments received during the Issues & Options consultation helped to inform the drafting of the Regulation 18 Local Plan which sets out the Council's preferred options. This document was recently the subject of public consultation between October – December 2018.

Submission and Examination

- 4.7 Informed by relevant up-to-date evidence and the responses made on the draft Plan, the Council will prepare the Local Plan for formal publication (expected in 2020). Once published, representations will be invited on issues of soundness and legal compliance. The Council can make limited, minor amendments to the published document at this stage before submitting it (and the representations made) to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate.
- 4.8 Once the Local Plan, its sustainability appraisal and all other supporting documentation have been submitted they will be examined by an independent Inspector. The Inspector is charged with examining whether the document complies with legislation; the duty to co-operate has been met; and whether the proposed plan is sound. If found to be 'sound' the Council can then adopt the Local Plan.

5 Other areas of Work

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Developer Contributions

- 5.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy is a mechanism through which Councils can collect financial contributions from developers toward identified infrastructure needs. The Council adopted CIL in February 2015 with implementation of the CIL Charging Schedule coming into effect on 1st October 2015. A full review of Worthing CIL is currently being undertaken and it is expected that a revised charging schedule will be in place by the end of 2019. The Borough CIL operates in conjunction with the Council's Developer Contributions SPD.

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning-policy/infrastructure/#worthing-cil>

Neighbourhood Plans

- 5.2 Neighbourhood Plans (NP) give communities the opportunity to come together through a local Parish Council or a Neighbourhood Forum (where there is no Parish Council - as is the case in Worthing) and state where they think new development should go. The matters to be addressed in a NP must be in line with national policies and also the strategic policies in the Local Plan. The creation of NPs is a partnership between the local community and the Council who can advise and support the process. There are currently no NPs currently being progressed in Worthing.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 5.3 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide greater detail on policies within the Council's Development Plan and support decisions on planning applications. The Council has in place a number of SPDs covering a range of topic areas. These, and other guidance documents, can be viewed using the link below. Given the focus being placed on the production of a new Local Plan there are no new SPDs currently programmed within this LDS. However, any new documents that may be produced will be reported within the Annual Monitoring Report.

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/worthing-ldf/spd-and-guidance

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 5.4 The Council has prepared a working draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (October 2018) to ensure that the emerging Worthing Local Plan can be supported by necessary infrastructure provision. The delivery of the right levels and type of infrastructure is essential to support new homes, economic growth and to protect the environment. It is important to note that the IDP is a mechanism for identifying the future infrastructure requirements of development proposed as a result of the Worthing Local Plan. The document is the 'second' IDP for Worthing and supersedes the IDP published in 2010 which was prepared to support the Worthing Core Strategy (2011). The IDP is a 'live' evidence base document that will be regularly reviewed and updated as the Local Plan progresses.

Joint Statement of Community Involvement

- 5.5 A draft revised Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is being prepared and it is expected to be adopted in Spring 2019. The SCI seeks to describe how the public, businesses and interest groups within Adur and Worthing can get involved in Planning Policy, Neighbourhood Planning and the planning application decision making process. Since the previous version of the SCI was adopted in 2012 there have been changes to national policy including the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (2018). It is therefore appropriate to review the SCI and bring it up-to-date.

6 Resources

- 6.1 Worthing Borough Council has committed to the adoption of a new Local Plan. Whilst the Planning Policy Team will take the lead in this work, other teams within the Council will be involved at appropriate stages as the Plan is progressed. There are strong project management arrangements and reporting structures in place to coordinate and monitor progress. Progress on the Local Plan will be reported to the regular meetings of the Local Plan Member's Working Group.
- 6.2 Expertise will be sought where relevant from other partners such as the County Council. Consultants may also be engaged on specific projects where there is a lack of capacity in-house, or specialist research is required. The existing Planning Policy budget makes allowance for anticipated costs of Local Plan production, including funding for specialist consultancy work and Examination.

7 Risk Assessment and Monitoring

- 7.1 Whilst the timetable for the Local Plan review set out in this LDS provides the best indication of the work programme there will always be a level of uncertainty associated with work of this nature. For example, there may be an issue with staff retention / recruitment and the level of public engagement / interest is often difficult to forecast. Furthermore, the national planning context is subject to change such as the Government recently publishing its revised National Policy as well as introducing a new standard method to calculating housing need. It takes time for these changes to be implemented but it also means that additional work has to be carried out.

- 7.2 The following arrangements will help to reduce risks and will ensure that planning documents are progressed in line with this LDS:
- Project management and reporting arrangements will ensure that the Local Plan is advanced in a transparent manner and that any risks / issues are identified and considered in a timely manner
 - Additional resources may be required in periods of heavy workload
 - Consultants may be appointed on short-term contracts to undertake specialist technical studies
 - Joint working will take place with neighbouring authorities when appropriate
 - Advice on procedural matters and any changes to legislation will be sought from the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Advisory Service
- 7.3 The LDS will be continually monitored and regular updates will be provided on the Council's website and through the Planning Policy Newsletter. A more formal review of progress will be set out in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. Any significant amendment to the timetable proposed may mean that this LDS will need to be reviewed.

Timetable for the Worthing Local Plan

Stages Undertaken								
Local Plan Stage	2017				2018			
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Updating of evidence								
Regulation 18 Draft Worthing Local Plan Consultation								

Timetable 2019-2021										
Local Plan Stage	2019				2020				2021	
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Consideration of Reg 18 consultation responses and updating of evidence										
Preparation of Regulation 19 Pre Submission version of Local Plan and consideration / approval by elected Members										
Regulation 19 Pre Submission Consultation										
Submission										
Examination										
Adoption										

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