



WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Worthing Planning Committee

24 June 2020

Agenda Item no. 7

Ward: All Wards

Interim Position Statement on Climate/Sustainability

Report by the Director of the Economy

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Climate change has become an increasingly urgent issue. A Planning and Climate Change Interim Checklist (appended) has been prepared for Worthing which sets interim guidance in relation to climate change to bridge the gap between the current Core Strategy and emerging Worthing Local Plan. It is recommended that this guidance is approved for use by Worthing Council as a material consideration to inform decision making on relevant Planning applications. A separate Checklist has been prepared for Adur District Council.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Climate change has grown in importance and urgency at both international and national levels. Adur and Worthing Councils have recognised this and responded by declaring a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and committing to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The Councils have also signed the UK100 Cities Pledge to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050, and published its Carbon Reduction Plan (2019).
- 2.2 The way in which we shape new and existing developments in Worthing can make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation through carbon reduction and sustainable design. The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) makes it clear that mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy is a core planning environmental objective. The planning system has a key role in the transition to a low-carbon society by shaping new and existing developments in ways

that reduce carbon dioxide emissions and building community resilience to problems such as extreme heat or flood risk.

- 2.3 The Worthing Core Strategy (2011) was written in the context of the South East Plan which provided policies on sustainable design, and national targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy. However national planning reforms resulted in the revocation of the South East Plan in 2013, and shortly after the withdrawal of the Code for Sustainable Homes and cancellation of the 2016 target for zero carbon homes. Due to these changes a number of the requirements and targets referred to in the Core Strategy no longer apply.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 Adur & Worthing Councils have prepared a Planning and Climate Change Position Statement which provides guidance on the relevant planning policies (within the context of climate change) that must be taken into account when formulating development proposals. This Interim Checklist builds on that Statement to provide guidance for developments, reflecting the higher standards in the emerging Worthing Local Plan. A separate Checklist has been prepared for Adur District Council that is similar in structure but refers to the requirements in the recently adopted Adur Local Plan (2017).
- 3.2 The Worthing Planning and Climate Change Interim Checklist provides a robust framework to climate change mitigation and adaptation including climate resilience and biodiversity net gain, to improve the sustainability of local developments. It was drafted with input from Development Management to ensure it provides a clear checklist that can be used by applicants in preparing planning applications and Officers in preparing Reports.
- 3.3 It is important to note that this Interim Checklist is not setting new policy requirements as this will be done through the emerging Worthing Local Plan.
- 3.4 However, the purpose of the Worthing Planning and Climate Change Interim Checklist is to clarify the policy direction, educate applicants and provide a clear checklist of sustainability measures. The Interim Checklist clarifies the requirements that must be met by relevant applications and also provides guidance and encouragement to go beyond this. The sustainability measures detailed within the Interim Checklist will be considered by the Council when determining relevant planning applications until the new Worthing Local Plan is adopted.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for.
- 4.2 There is a legal duty under section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation are core objectives integrated across all local planning policy. The National Planning Policy Framework states the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate (paragraph 148). Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts (paragraph 149).

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Planning Committee forward any comments to the Executive Member for Regeneration before he is asked to approve the Worthing Planning and Climate Change Interim Checklist (June 2020) to be used as a material consideration when determining any relevant planning applications.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

[Planning and Climate Change Position Statement](#)

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

- 1.1 Platform 3: Tackling Climate Change and Supporting our Natural Environment.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

- 2.1 (A) 3.10.1 and 3.10.3 The Worthing Planning and Climate Change Interim Checklist provides a robust approach to carbon reduction, sustainability and climate resilience in advance of the emerging Worthing Local Plan by clarifying policy and educating applicants to improve the sustainability standards of development through the planning process.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 The emerging Worthing Local Plan is being informed by a Sustainability Appraisal.

4.0 Equality Issues

- 4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- 5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

7.0 Reputation

- 7.1 It reflects the Council's commitment to addressing climate change and reducing carbon.

8.0 Consultations

- 8.1 Consultation has been undertaken internally with Development Management.

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 Without this Interim Checklist the sustainability standards of new development are unlikely to improve in advance of the emerging Worthing Local Plan. Current policy requirements for developments relating to climate change and sustainability are set out in the Core Strategy (2011), many of these are now out of date, or relate to cancelled national targets.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

- 10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

- 11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

12.0 Partnership Working

- 12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.