



## Planning and Climate Change Checklist

### Report by the Director for the Economy

#### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Climate change has become an increasingly urgent issue. A Planning and Climate Change Checklist (appended) has been prepared for Adur which sets out the policy requirements in relation to climate change, and also sets guidance to further improve the sustainability of development. It is recommended that this guidance is approved for use by Adur District Council as a material consideration to inform decision making on relevant planning applications. A separate Checklist has been prepared for Worthing Borough 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 a Carbon Reduction Plan (2019).
- 2.2 The way in which we shape new and existing developments in Adur 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 Adur Local Plan (2017) sets the vision and strategy for the future of Adur (outside of the South Downs National Park) until 2032, together with policies to deliver these. The Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan (2019) sets specific policies for developments within the regeneration area. The Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Document (2019) clarifies the different energy requirements from both of these plan documents (as well as how different renewable energy technologies can be applied to developments).
- 2.4 Adur & Worthing Councils have also 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.
- 2.5 This Checklist takes account of these and provides more detailed guidance on where and when the policy requirements that contribute most to climate change mitigation and adaptation apply.

### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 The Adur Planning and Climate Change Checklist provides a robust framework to improve the sustainability of local developments, particularly with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Checklist clarifies which types of development and in which locations the current policy requirements apply to. It also encourages developers to meet additional elements as far as possible.
- 3.2 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. A separate Checklist has been prepared for Worthing Borough Council that is similar in structure but refers to the measures in the emerging Worthing Local Plan.
- 3.3 It is important to note that this Checklist is not setting new policy requirements, these are already set out in the Adur Local Plan and Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan. It will be the role of the Adur Local Plan

Review to consider and where appropriate update the current policy standards and requirements.

- 3.4 Therefore, the purpose of the Adur Planning and Climate Change Checklist is to clarify the policy direction, educate applicants and provide a clear checklist of sustainability measures. The 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 Checklist will be considered by the Council when determining relevant planning applications.

#### **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 Adur Planning and Climate Change 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 Adur Planning and Climate Change Checklist provides a robust approach to carbon reduction, sustainability and climate resilience as set out in the Adur 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 Adur Local Plan and Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan were both informed by 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 Checklist requirements relating to climate change and sustainability for developments in Adur are set out in multiple policies and plan documents.

## **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