



## Sustainability Checklist

### Report by the Director for the Economy

#### Executive Summary

##### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. Climate Change is an increasingly urgent issue. The Council has declared a climate emergency and committed to through 'Platforms for our Places' to creating and adopting a Planning Sustainability Checklist. A checklist was approved in August 2020 however since this time the Government has published its proposed Future Homes Standard.
- 1.2. The report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Regeneration to replace the original checklist with an updated version and publish this on our website to be used as planning guidance.

##### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member notes that no comments were made by the Adur Planning Committee concerning the proposed updates to the checklist.
- 2.2. The Executive Member approves the updated Adur Planning and Climate Change Checklist to be published online and used as a material consideration when determining any relevant planning applications.

- 2.3. The Executive Member notes that the review of the Adur Local Plan will in time supersede this checklist and of course will need to be amended to accord with changing national planning policies and guidance.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1. The Adur Planning and Climate Change Interim Checklist was previously approved in August 2020, it builds on the Planning and Climate Change Position Statement (2019) fulfilling the Council's commitment to create and adopt a Planning Sustainability Checklist.
- 3.2. The 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 go beyond this and meet additional elements as far as possible to support reaching Net Zero across the whole area by 2045.
- 3.3. However since its approval the government has further progressed the Future Homes Standard and also consulted on the Future Building Standard which aims to set energy efficiency standards for new homes and non domestic buildings. It is therefore recognised that an update is required to keep the checklist in line with emerging national standards.

### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1. In January of this year, the government published the outcome of the Future Homes Standard Consultation which had sought views on changes to Building Regulations to improve the energy efficiency of new homes. In addition the government also recently consulted on the Future Building Standard which looks at measures to improve the energy efficiency of non-domestic buildings. Amendments to the checklist reflect these standards including the proposal for a significant improvement on the standard for extensions.
- 4.2. Adur Planning Committee commented that any change to development requirements will need to be assessed, including in terms of viability, through the Adur Local Plan review. 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.

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1. The original checklists were drafted in partnership with colleagues in Development Management. The updates to the checklist were considered by the Adur Planning Committee on the 5th July 2021.
- 5.2. The Committee Members agreed there were no specific comments to be forwarded to the Executive Member for Regeneration before he approved the Adur Planning and Climate Change Checklist to be published online and used as a material consideration when determining any relevant planning applications. However, it should be noted that Councillor Boram was keen to understand the relationship between the Sustainability Checklist and the Energy SPD relating to the Western Harbour Arm. The Committee Members also noted that the review of the Adur Local Plan will in time supersede this checklist and of course will need to be amended to accord with changing national planning policies and guidance.
- 5.3. Whilst the Checklist provides an overview of existing policy requirements and encourages how and where these can be further strengthened the policies are set by the Adur Local Plan (2017) and The Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan (2019). In addition the Sustainable Energy Supplementary Planning Document (2019) provides more detailed clarification and guidance on energy requirements and how an energy statement should be drafted. Any changes to policy requirements will need to be assessed, including in terms of viability, through the Adur Local Plan review therefore the checklist only encourages these.

## **6. Financial Implications**

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

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1. 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.
  
- 7.2. 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 policies. The National Planning Policy Framework states the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.

### **Background Papers**

[Adur Planning Committee 5 July 2021 Agenda Item no. 9](#)

[Adur Planning Committee 6 July 2020 Agenda Item no. 8](#)

[Planning & Climate Change Position Statement](#)

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

The Interim Checklist seeks to improve the sustainability of developments in Adur. This may increase development costs. However the requirements included were set through the Adur Local Plan (2017) and Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan (2019) which were supported by viability assessments.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Matter considered and no issues identified

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect disadvantaged groups. The Interim Checklist seeks to improve the sustainability of buildings. Measures relating to climate change adaptation will help improve the resilience of new developments. The policy requirements were set through the Adur Local Plan (2017) and The Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan (2019), both were informed by sustainability appraisal.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

Matter considered and no issues identified

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified

### **3. Environmental**

The Checklist seeks to improve the sustainability of development in Adur. However it does not set new policy requirements, these were set under the Adur Local Plan (2017) and The Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan (2019), both were informed by sustainability appraisal.

### **4. Governance**

The Checklist reflects the Council's commitment to addressing climate change and reducing carbon, particularly the pledge through UK100 to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. It links with Platform 3: Tackling Climate Change and Supporting our Natural Environment, and contributes to achieving commitments set out in the Action Plan 3.10.1 and 3.10.3 by providing a robust approach to carbon reduction, sustainability and climate resilience by clarifying policy and educating applicants to improve the sustainability standards of development through the planning process.