



# **WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **DRAFT INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating Habitat Regulations Assessment,  
Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment**

**Regulation 18**

**October 2018**



## **Draft Integrated Impact Appraisal: Non-technical Summary**

### **Compliance with SEA Directive's Requirements**

*"In preparing an environmental report, the information that it gives should include a non-technical summary of the information provided..."*

### **Worthing Local Plan**

A new Local Plan is being prepared by Worthing Borough Council. Once adopted it will set the planning framework for the part of the borough outside of the South Downs National Park over the next 15-20 years.

### **Sustainable Development**

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It can be defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

### **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

The need to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan is required by both the European Union and UK law.

A SA aims to understand the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans. It is a process for understanding whether the plan promotes and achieves sustainable development, and to help it deliver more sustainable outcomes.

The SEA looks at the environmental effects that are likely to arise from plans. It is a process for assessing and reducing the likely negative environmental impacts. In this report the SEA process has been incorporated into the SA process. Therefore where this report solely refers to the SA it can be assumed that this also means the SEA.

This Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) also incorporates an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). An EqIA is a way of considering the likely effects of policies and decisions on different groups living and working in Worthing that are protected from discrimination by the Equality Act. Health Impact Assessment is a way of considering the possible health impacts.

## **Methodology**

In May 2016, a SA Scoping Report was produced alongside the 'Your Town, Your Future' Local Plan consultation. It has been subject to consultation with the relevant statutory bodies.

Changes have been made to the information from the original Scoping report based on the responses received from the previous consultation as well as updates to datasets and the release of new plans and strategies that the Local Plan must have regard to.

The Draft IIA Report has been prepared in order to present the appraisal of the impacts of reasonable options developed for each policy area of the Local Plan, helping to identify the best approach. The draft wording of policies has also been appraised against sustainability objectives and refined to increase their sustainability credentials.

The SA process has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and following government guidance and best practice.

## **The Baseline Situation**

This section of the report describes the borough and plan area (the area of the borough not within the South Downs National Park) in environmental, social and economic terms as it is today and attempts to describe what it would be like by 2033 if no plan were put in place.

## **Key Sustainability Issues**

Key sustainability issues were identified based on the work gathered from the baseline situation. They have been identified to help create the sustainability framework, which is the mechanism to appraise the options for and policies of the Draft Local Plan. The key issues can be summarised as follows:

- There is poor air quality along the A27.
- There is limited open space within and around Worthing.
- The areas at risk of flooding are likely to increase as a result of climate change.
- It is important that the downward trend in CO2 emissions is maintained.
- The growing ageing population will have implications for demands on health and social care.
- Some Wards in Worthing are among the 10% most deprived in England.
- There is a need to conserve and enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- There is a need to provide housing to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

- There is a need to conserve and enhance the character and setting of Worthing's urban areas and its relationship with the coast and National Park.
- There is a need to protect areas of high quality agricultural land which is an important resource for food production.
- Road congestion affects many parts of the highway network and current rail services are at capacity during peak times.
- There is a need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- There is a need to conserve water resources. Worthing is in an area of serious water stress, this is likely to be exacerbated by droughts as a result of climate change.

## **The Sustainability Framework**

The IIA framework forms the sustainability framework. It consists of objectives, criteria and commentary. It was created in order to appraise the options for and policies of the Draft Local Plan. The sustainability framework is available within the main report (Table 3).

## **Appraising Policy Options**

An important part of the SA process is the appraisal of different options for policy areas to help identify the most sustainable approaches and inform the Draft Local Plan.

For a number of policy areas, different options were identified and appraised against the framework to identify the preferred approach. This is shown in the main report (Table 10).

**Table 1 Summary of Policy Options considered**

<b>Policy Options</b>	<b>Approach carried to policy</b>
SP2: Spatial Strategy 1. Brownfield only 2. Brownfield land and sustainable urban extensions	2
SP3: Development Sites 1. Need led approach 2. Supply led approach 3. Evidence led approach	3
SP5: Local Gaps 1. Chatsmore Farm 2. Goring Ferring Gap 3. Brooklands Recreation Area and abutting allotments 4. Land east of proposed development (site A3) at Upper Brighton Road	1, 2, 3 and 4
SP6: Local Green Space Designation 1. Goring Ferring Gap 2. Chatsmore Farm	1, 2 and 3

3. Brooklands Recreation Area	
PA1: Goring Ferring Gap 1. Protecting the site 2. Allocating the site for development	1
PA2: Chatsmore Farm 1. Protecting the site 2. Allocating the whole site for development	1
PA3: Brooklands Recreation Area 1. Retaining the north west portion of the site (known as Dale Road) and protecting the site 2. Allocating the north west portion of the site (known as Dale Road) for development	1
CP1: Housing Mix and Quality 1. Require developments to meet the optional higher Building Regulations standard M4(2) for Accessible and Adaptable dwellings and 10% of homes on major development to meet Building Regulations requirement M4(3) for wheelchair user dwellings 2. Comply with the optional higher standard M4(2) only 3. Continue to rely on current Building Regulations standards.	1
CP2: Density 1. Require new dwellings to meet the minimum nationally described space standards and local standards for external space. 2. Not setting minimum space standards	1
CP12: Protecting and Enhancing Existing Employment Sites 1. Protect key industrial estates, business parks and office locations 2. Avoid the long term protection of employment sites	1
CP14: Retail and Main Town Centre Uses 1. Increase in flexibility by reducing the areas where only retail uses are allowed 2. Retain existing approach	1
CP17: Sustainable Design 1a. Require optional higher Building Regulations standard on water efficiency 1b. Rely on current standards 2a. Require minimum sustainability standards 2b. Rely on current standards	1a and 2a

### Appraising the Policies

Policies were developed based on the preferred approaches identified in Table 1. Final drafts of the policies were appraised against the sustainability framework.

Overall the Draft Local Plan scores positively against the majority of objectives, with no negative scores overall. Neutral scores were identified against the environmental quality and water management objectives highlighting that despite measures included in the Plan to improve air quality and minimise water use there may still be increases in traffic and water use as a result of the development planned. The Draft Local Plan scores uncertain against the education objective due to the limited direct impact it will have.

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