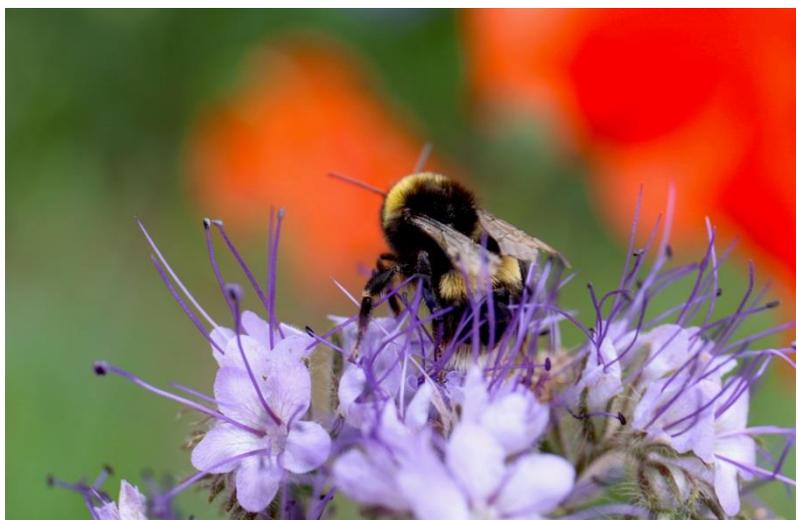


**ADUR &  
WORTHING  
COUNCILS**

**PLANNING  
&  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**LIVE  
POSITION  
STATEMENT**

**NOVEMBER 2019**



**ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## I. Introduction

- 1.1 Climate change is undoubtedly the defining issue of our time. Adur & Worthing Councils' declared [Climate Emergency](#) in July 2019 and has committed to work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The Councils have also signed the UK100 Cities Pledge to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050. In November 2018, the Councils' adopted an ambitious programme of action on sustainability under [Sustainable AW](#).
- 1.2 The planning system is one of many tools that can be used to address climate change. The way in which we shape new and existing developments in Adur and Worthing can make a significant contribution to adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change through carbon reduction ('decarbonisation') and sustainable design & construction.
- 1.3 As a planning authority, Adur DC and Worthing BC must take account of relevant legislation, national policy, and guidance relating to climate change when determining planning applications and the preparation / review of Local Plans.
- 1.4 The purpose of this statement is to provide guidance on the relevant planning policies (within the context of climate change) that must be taken into account when formulating development proposals. It should also be used as an aid to guide the decision-making process to ensure that development proposals contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Adur and Worthing. This is a live document and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it is kept up-to-date. Other policies, plans and strategies will be prepared to support the overarching position established in this document.

## 2. Climate Change – Current & Future Trends

- 2.1 Climate change is already happening and data presented by the UK Climate Projections (Met Office, 2019) illustrates that the average temperature over the most recent decade (2009-2018) has been on average 0.3 °C warmer than the 1981-2010 average and 0.9 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average. All the top ten warmest years for the UK, in the series from 1884, have occurred since 2002<sup>1</sup>. The projections observe:
  - By the end of the 21st century, all areas of the UK are projected to be warmer, more so in summer than in winter. The temperature of hot summer days, by 2070 could increase between 3.7°C to 6.8°C (under a high emissions scenario)
  - Climate change is projected to bring about a change in the seasonality of extremes
  - Continue to expect increases to extreme coastal water levels driven mainly by increases in mean sea level rise.

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<sup>1</sup> UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings (September 2019):  
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp-headline-findings-v2.pdf>

*How will climate change impact on the built & natural environment?*

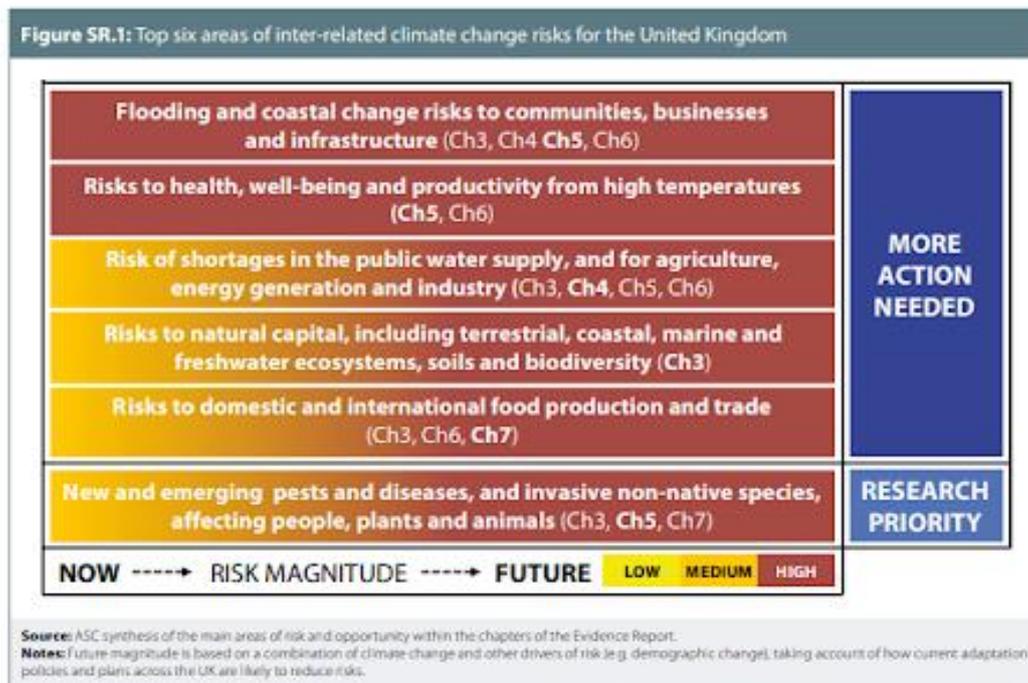
- 2.2 The built and natural environment are vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as:
- Higher temperatures: increased heatwaves, enhanced urban heat island effect, health implications e.g. heat stress in frail, elderly people and young people
  - Reduced air quality: impact on health
  - Drier summers and drought: increase risk of wildfires, impact on agriculture and food production, reduced water availability, reduced water quality and reduced soil moisture content / increased subsidence
  - Threat to biodiversity & ecosystems: wildlife migratory patterns and loss of species
  - Increased precipitation: more rainfall in winter, heavier rain, increased river flooding, and increased urban drainage flooding
  - Rising sea levels: coastal flooding and erosion
  - Damage to infrastructure
  - Higher wind speeds: increased storm events.
- 2.3 People most vulnerable to climate change are often those on lower incomes. For example, people with lower incomes are less able to replace and repair damage from flooding. This inequality is referred to as 'climate injustice'. According to research<sup>2</sup> there are over 10,000 neighbourhoods across the UK where people are vulnerable to flooding. Adur and Worthing each have 7 of these neighbourhoods with high social flood risk for surface flooding. It is good practice for Local Plans to pay particular attention to vulnerable groups as different climatic impacts will affect various parts of the community differently.
- 2.4 The Committee on Climate Change published a report on Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017)<sup>3</sup> which sets out priorities for the next five years. As illustrated overleaf, the assessment identifies the greatest risks associated with climate change in the UK.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.climatejust.org.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/UK-CCRA-2017-Synthesis-Report-Committee-on-Climate-Change.pdf>

Figure I: Top six areas of inter-related climate change risks for the United Kingdom



- 2.5 The UN Special Report (2018)<sup>4</sup> by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's most authoritative body on climate change, presents clear and robust evidence that the world needs to limit global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels, in order to have any chance of reducing the risks of dangerous and irreversible climate change in the future. However, the latest science indicates that 1.5°C is a more realistic target to avoid these worse extremes.<sup>5</sup>
- 2.6 The UN Report provides the impetus that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally, nationally and globally. This is to be done through a range of measures classed as either 'adaptation' or 'mitigation'.

#### Definitions (National Planning Policy Framework 2019)

**Climate change adaptation:** Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

**Climate change mitigation:** Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

<sup>4</sup> IPCC Report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>5</sup> TCPA & RTPI Rising to the Climate Crisis (2018):

## *Local Trends*

- 2.7 Friends of the Earth has undertaken a recent review on how local authority areas across the country are performing on key issues impacting our climate. An [online tool](#) ('How climate friendly is your community') is available and sets out key data performance statistics and recommendations for Adur District and Worthing Borough as summarised below. These statistics provide useful evidence to inform the preparation / review of Local Plans and the recommendations can be embedded as measures within planning policies but also to be included in the masterplanning for development proposals.

### Adur District

- 2.8 In Adur, 37% of emissions come from housing, 43% from transport, and 20% are industrial and commercial emissions. Only 31% of homes are well insulated and 9% of households in the area are in fuel poverty. Friends of the Earth recommend that upgrading the insulation of 1,818 homes per year within Adur will ensure all homes are properly insulated by 2030. Consideration should be given to promoting a shift from gas central heating to eco-heating. There are 16 government funded eco-heating systems in Adur yet the UK needs to fit around 1 million per year. It is recommended that Adur should fit 978 eco-heating systems every year.
- 2.9 In Adur only 14% of people commute by public transport with 4% of commuter journeys undertaken by bike. There is good potential to improve this through the provision of good, safe and attractive cycling infrastructure (such as segregated cycleways) and better accessible walking routes especially to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys and as part of a longer journey. There also needs to be an increase in electric vehicle charging points to accelerate a faster transition to electric cars.
- 2.10 Adur has 3MW of renewable power and when compared to best performing authority areas, 15MW of renewable energy could be achieved. This indicates that there is potential to improve electricity generation from renewable energy technologies.
- 2.11 Trees play an important role in the sequestration of carbon dioxide and Friends of the Earth suggest that tree coverage should be increased by at least 20%.

### Worthing Borough

- 2.12 In Worthing, 46% of emissions come from housing, 25% from transport, and 29% are industrial and commercial emissions. Only 29% of homes are well insulated and 9% of households in the area are in fuel poverty. Friends of the Earth recommend that upgrading the insulation of 3,146 homes per year within Worthing will ensure all homes are properly insulated by 2030. There needs to be a shift from gas central heating to eco-heating. There are 23 government funded eco-heating systems in Worthing yet the UK needs to fit around 1 million per year. It is recommended that Worthing should fit 1,627 eco-heating systems every year.

- 2.13 In Worthing only 11% of people commute by public transport with 6% of commuter journeys undertaken by bike. There is good potential to improve this through the provision of good, safe and attractive cycling infrastructure (such as segregated cycleways) and better accessible walking routes especially to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys and as part of a longer journey. There also needs to be an increase in electric vehicle charging points to accelerate a faster transition to electric cars.
- 2.14 Worthing has 4MW of renewable power and when compared to best performing authority areas, 15MW of renewable energy could be achieved. This indicates that there is potential to improve electricity generation from renewable energy technologies.
- 2.15 Trees play an important role in the sequestration of carbon dioxide and Friends of the Earth suggest tree coverage should be increased by at least 20%.

### **3. The Role of the Planning System**

- 3.1 On a local level, the planning system, through “plan-making” and “decision-taking” can support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. Effective spatial planning is an important part of a successful response to climate change as it can influence the emission of greenhouse gases. In doing so, local planning authorities should ensure that protecting the local environment is properly considered alongside the broader issues of protecting the global environment. Planning can also help increase resilience to climate change impact through the location, mix and design of development.

#### **Examples of mitigating climate change by reducing emissions:**

- Reducing the need to travel and providing for sustainable transport
- Providing opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy technologies
- Providing opportunities for decentralised energy and heating
- Promoting low carbon design approaches to reduce energy consumption in buildings, such as passive solar design.

#### **Examples of adapting to a changing climate:**

- Considering future climate risks when allocating development sites and the preparation of development proposals to ensure risks are understood over the development’s lifetime
- Considering the impact of and promoting design responses to flood risk and coastal change for the lifetime of the development
- Considering the availability of water and water infrastructure for the lifetime of the development and design responses to promote water efficiency and protect water quality
- Promoting adaptation approach in the design of developments and the public realm.

3.2 The provision of Green Infrastructure<sup>6</sup> within new developments has a multitude of environmental, social and economic benefits as well as delivering a wide range of ecosystem services such as biodiversity and wildlife, water purification, air quality, space for recreation and playing a dual role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. As a network, it includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, but also street trees, allotments, wildflower meadows, private gardens, green roofs and walls. It also encompasses 'blue infrastructure' such as streams and other water bodies. In particular, new developments such as residential can provide accessible natural areas close to people's homes, designed to complement the wider local landscape and linking up large nature-rich open spaces with a network of green and blue corridors. The [Wildlife Trust](#) provides some examples such as:

- Trees, hedgerows, water and other habitats integrated within development
- Wildflower verges along roads and formal open spaces
- Street trees for wildlife, shade and improved air quality
- Wildlife-friendly green roofs and walls.

3.3 These adaptation and mitigation measures also provide key opportunities to take positive action on climate change by encouraging community-led initiatives such as the promotion of decentralised renewable energy, securing land for local community food growing and the provision of green infrastructure. These measures simultaneously achieve other social objectives. For example, safe cycling options are good for enhancing human health and the mobility of young people, and local food sourcing can provide an opportunity for the kind of community engagement that the localism and health agendas are seeking to foster.

## 4. The Legislative Context

### *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*

4.1 Local Plans must incorporate the principles of sustainable development<sup>7</sup> which were first adopted by the United Nations in 1992. 'Sustainability' is the foundation of a global framework for international cooperation. The objectives of sustainable development have been enshrined into European and National Law and it is the golden thread that runs through the National Planning Policy Framework with regards to both plan-making and decision-taking.

4.2 In 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which saw the refinement of its sustainability objectives to include new areas such as climate change, economic inequality and innovation. These have been adopted as 17 interconnected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They seek to address the global challenges we face and

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<sup>6</sup> Defined by National Planning Policy as a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

<sup>7</sup> Brundtland 1987 Definition: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

are a call for action by all countries. Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries. The SDGS will be a compass for aligning countries' plans with their global commitments.

#### *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*

- 4.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the legislative framework for development planning in England. Section 19(1A) of the act states:

*“Development plan documents must (taken as a whole) include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.”*

- 4.4 The Councils are bound by the legal duty set out in Section 19, as amended by the 2008 Planning Act, to ensure that policies in local plans contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

#### *Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Amendment) Order 2019*

- 4.5 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. The Act also establishes the framework to deliver on these requirements. On 12 June 2019 the Government laid the draft Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 by introducing a target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. This is otherwise known as a net zero target. The Order came into force on 27 June 2019. If met, this target would effectively mean that the UK will end its contribution to global emissions by 2050. Before this amendment, the UK had a long-term emissions reduction target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, set by the Climate Change Act 2008.
- 4.6 Since the Act came into force in 2008, five carbon budgets (to act as stepping stones towards the 2050 target) have been set in law which set out interim targets for the UK. The current budget requires a minimum 57% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. Budgets must be set at least 12 years in advance to allow policy-makers, businesses and individuals enough time to prepare. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) will publish its recommendation on the level of the Sixth Carbon Budget in September 2020. The Sixth Carbon Budget, will provide ministers with advice on the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit during the period 2033-2037. It will set the path to the UK's new net-zero emissions target in 2050, as the first carbon budget to be set into law following that commitment.

### *Planning and Energy Act 2008*

- 4.7 Section 1 (1) of the Planning and Energy Act 2008 allows local planning authorities to impose reasonable requirements for:
- a) a proportion of energy used in development in their area to be energy from renewable sources in the locality of the development;
  - b) a proportion of energy used in development in their area to be low carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development;
  - c) development in their area to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceeds the energy requirements of building regulations.
- 4.8 A Written Material Statement (2015) proposed the removal of Part (c) to exempt residential dwellings. However this has not been brought into force, and the provisions of the act remain in place. The government has stated that local planning authorities are not restricted in their ability to require energy efficiency standards above building regulations.<sup>8</sup>

### *Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017*

- 4.9 While this act is primarily concerned with neighbourhood plans, it creates a new legal duty on local planning authorities to set out their strategic priorities. The government has indicated that these priorities should be expressed in a strategic plan. This plan is focused on high level strategic issues set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, and these issues include action on climate change.

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<sup>8</sup> Government response to the draft revised National Planning Policy Framework consultation (p.48) (2018)

## 5. National Planning Policy Context

- 5.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) (NPPF) sets out the government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied through the preparation of Local Plans. These policies are a material consideration in development management decisions on planning applications.
- 5.2 Paragraph 8 of the NPPF makes clear that “mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy” is a core planning environmental objective.

The NPPF sets out how to meet the challenge of climate change:

- The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. (paragraph 148)
- Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure. (paragraph 149)
- New development should be planned for in ways that:
  - a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and
  - b) can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government’s policy for national technical standards. (paragraph 150)

- To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:
  - a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);
  - b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and
  - c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for collocating potential heat customers and suppliers. (paragraph 151)
- Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning. (paragraph 152)
- planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:
  - a) comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and b) take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption. (paragraph 153)
- When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:
  - a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and
  - b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas. (paragraph 154)

5.3 The NPPF include requirements relating to other policy areas that link to climate change adaptation and mitigation such as healthy and safe communities, sustainable transport, achieving well designed places, flooding, coastal change and conserving and enhancing the natural environment. It should be noted that these requirements are cascaded into Local Plans. Therefore to avoid this paper containing unnecessary repetition / duplication of national and local policy, it will only signpost to relevant local policies therein.

## 6 Local Planning Policy Context

### *Adur Local Plan*

- 6.1 The [Adur Local Plan](#) was adopted in 2017. The Plan provides a comprehensive vision and strategy for the future of Adur until 2032. Key challenges for the Plan include the need to: improve infrastructure; address climate change; work towards achieving sustainability; and to balance development and regeneration requirements against the limited physical capacity of Adur without detriment to environmental quality.

**Adur Local Plan's Vision includes that the following will be achieved by 2032:**

V6: High standards of design will have become an essential part of all new development

V10: Progress will have been made towards a low carbon, sustainable community through sustainable construction, energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, (...) and to make a significant contribution to low and zero carbon energy production.

- 6.2 The Adur Local Plan contains the following policies (that relate to climate change adaptation and mitigation) that need to be considered when determining planning applications:
- Policy 1: Sustainable Development
  - Policy 18: Sustainable Design
  - Policy 19: Decentralised Energy, Stand-alone Energy Schemes and Renewable Energy
  - Policy 28: Transport and Connectivity
  - Policy 30: Green Infrastructure
  - Policy 31: Biodiversity
  - Policy 34: Pollution and Contamination
  - Policy 35: Water Quality and Protection
  - Policy 36: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage

### *Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Area*

- 6.3 Adur District Council is working in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council and West Sussex County Council to regenerate Shoreham Harbour and surrounding areas. Policy 8 of the Adur Local Plan makes specific requirements for development within the regeneration area.
- 6.4 All development proposals within the Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Area are required to submit a Sustainability Statement. The energy assessment required by Policy 19 of the Adur Local Plan, and the [Sustainable Energy SPD](#) (2019), should be incorporated into the

Sustainability Statement. The Sustainable Energy SPD provides guidance on how applicants can comply with policy and submit information to Adur District Council in a way which can easily be assessed by planning officers.

- 6.5 The SPD describes the various different renewable energy technologies and how they can be applied to developments. It clarifies the different energy requirements for the different plan areas in Adur (the Shoreham Harbour JAAP area and the remaining area in Adur). It also describes how an energy statement can be developed and what this should cover. The Sustainable Energy SPD will apply to:
- new major residential and non-residential developments proposed in the Adur Local Plan area
  - new development in the Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Area (excluding householder applications)
  - new development in the proposed Shoreham Heat Network Area<sup>9</sup> (excluding householder applications).
- 6.6 The Councils have prepared the Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan which was adopted on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Policy SH1: Climate change, energy and sustainable building require all new development within the regeneration area to incorporate low and zero carbon decentralised energy opportunities. Other policies in the JAAP that relate to climate change adaptation and mitigation are:
- Policy SH5: Sustainable travel
  - Policy SH6: Flood risk and sustainable drainage
  - Policy SH7: Natural environment, biodiversity and green infrastructure
- 6.7 In line with Policy SH7, the partnership have committed to producing a joint green infrastructure strategy for the harbour and surrounding areas. The Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan allocates a number of sites as a green corridor through much of the regeneration area.

#### *Shoreham Harbour Flood Risk Management Guide SPD*

- 6.8 The Flood Risk Management Guide Supplementary Planning Guidance was adopted by Adur District Council in October 2015 to provide guidance for developers and decision makers on the design of new flood defence infrastructure at Shoreham Harbour. Until the Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) for Shoreham Harbour is adopted, the Flood Risk Management Guide will make clear what would be expected from developers of sites identified in the JAAP. This is of particular importance to the Western Harbour Arm where flood risk is greatest.

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<sup>9</sup> Shoreham Heat Network Partnership (Shoreham Harbour Regeneration, Adur District Council, West Sussex County Council & Shoreham Port Authority) is exploring the potential for a heat network serving parts of Shoreham-by-Sea town centre and Shoreham Harbour. All development in this area will be required to connect to the network once it is complete. Heating/cooling systems must therefore be designed to be compatible with future connection to a network.

- 6.9 The [Worthing Core Strategy](#) was adopted by the Council in 2011. The document, which forms a key part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), will help guide planning and development in the Borough up to 2026. The Council is preparing a new [Local Plan](#) for Worthing Borough.

**Worthing's Core Strategy Vision and Strategic Objectives includes that the following will be achieved by 2026:**

**Vision:**

The quality of the town's natural, historical and built environment will continue to improve, with due regard being given to mitigating against and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. New developments will be of a high quality and continue to be guided by the principles of sustainable development.

**Strategic Objective 1: Protect the Natural Environment and Address Climate Change**

The overarching principle of the Local Development Framework is that the borough's future will need to be sustainable. Development will give due regard to mitigating and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. This will demand a reduced carbon footprint from existing and future businesses, residents, services and visitors. In Worthing, this will principally be addressed through improved energy efficiency, careful use of water resources, reducing the need to travel, promoting sustainable construction and the use of innovative low carbon energy sources.

New development will be expected to avoid or, where not practical, mitigate any adverse impact on flora and fauna and environmentally sensitive areas. The protection and enhancement of environmental assets will be integral to ensuring a high quality of life. Opportunities will be sought to increase the biodiversity of the town, expand the green network and protect and enhance the coastal strip.

**Key Outcomes:**

- Watercourses, the natural environment and valued open spaces of the borough are safeguarded
- A Green Infrastructure Strategy has been implemented and green links and corridors are improved
- Worthing is adequately protected against flood risk and coastal erosion
- Environmental designations, protected species and trees covered by Preservation Orders are all protected

- There has been no net adverse impact upon areas of biodiversity importance and where possible the biodiversity of these areas has been improved
- The supply of energy from renewable sources has increased
- New developments have maximised energy and water efficiency and minimised pollution and waste
- Worthing's carbon footprint is reduced – working towards becoming a carbon neutral town
- The South Downs National Park Authority is well established and provides the appropriate management of Downland to the north of the town
- Worthing has adapted to and mitigated against the effects of climate change and resilient communities have been created
- The amount of waste produced in Worthing is reduced and the amount that is recycled is increased.

6.10 The Core Strategy contains the following policies (that relate to climate change adaptation and mitigation) that need to be considered when determining planning applications:

- Policy 13: The Natural Environment and Landscape Character
- Policy 14: Green Infrastructure
- Policy 15: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management
- Policy 17: Sustainable Construction
- Policy 18: Sustainable Energy
- Policy 19: Sustainable Travel

*Guide to Residential Development SPD (2013)*

6.11 The purpose of this document is to provide general policy and design guidance for all residential development. A key objective of the document is to ensure that all residential development is designed and built to create high quality homes and contribute to a good quality environment. It provides guidance on the application of Core Strategy Policies 17 and 18.

*Emerging Worthing Local Plan*

6.12 Worthing Borough Council is preparing its new development plan, called the Worthing Local Plan. When adopted, it will replace the Core Strategy and it will be a key document in shaping the future of the borough over a 15 year period. The Draft Plan, that sets out the Council's preferred options, were published for consultation between October and December 2018.

6.13 The emerging Local Plan contains the following draft policies which set out the direction of travel with regards to the Council's approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- Policy SPI: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- Policy CP5: Quality of the Built Environment
- Policy CP7: Healthy Communities
- Policy CP10: Delivering Infrastructure
- Policy CP17: Sustainable Design
- Policy CP18: Energy
- Policy CP19: Biodiversity
- Policy CP20 Green Infrastructure
- Policy CP21: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage
- Policy CP22: Water Quality and Protection
- Policy CP23: Pollution and Contamination
- Policy CP24: Connectivity

6.14 The Council is proactively reviewing the draft Local Plan, considering updated evidence and best practice examples to maximise the robustness of policies to ensure they are effective as possible in order to meet national policy requirements and the Councils Climate Emergency Pledge. The Council is also exploring opportunities to embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within the Local Plan in order to enhance the sustainability credentials and to provide a more robust monitoring framework. The Council is committed to demonstrate local leadership on sustainable development.

## 7. Local Planning Validation List

- 7.1 Each planning application form includes a check list of standard planning application requirements. In addition, Adur & Worthing Councils has its own list of local requirements. An application cannot be considered to be valid until it meets both the national and local requirements.
- 7.2 The [Local Validation List](#) requires the following to be considered (that are of relevance to climate change adaptation and mitigation):
- Air Quality Assessment (AQA)
  - Biodiversity Survey and Report
  - Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Exceptions and Sequential Tests
  - Landscaping Details
  - Refuse and Recycling Provision
  - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
  - Transport Issues
  - Tree Survey
  - Ventilation and Air Conditioning Statement.

## 8. Monitoring / Relevant Projects & Strategies

- 8.1 It is important that there is a monitoring framework in place to ensure the effectiveness and robustness of planning policies but also to assess the implementation of adaptation and mitigation practices in development proposals. The following suite of monitoring tools needs to be utilised:

### *Annual Monitoring Report<sup>10</sup>*

- 8.2 Adur District and Worthing Borough both prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which is to share performance and achievements of the planning service with the local community. It is designed to show what planning is doing and the difference it is making. This is achieved in two main ways by reporting on:
- the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS)
  - the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs) are being achieved.

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<sup>10</sup> Adur Annual Monitoring Report: <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/adur-ldf/annual-monitoring-report/>

Worthing Annual Monitoring Report: <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/worthing-ldf/annual-monitoring-report/>

### *Biodiversity Net Gain*

- 8.3 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has recently consulted on proposals to mandate Biodiversity Net Gain in new developments. Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity developers must deliver biodiversity net gain of 10%. Development must leave wildlife habitats in a measurably better condition than before development started. This will require a baseline assessment of existing habitats and evidence to demonstrate that a net gain has been achieved. The requirement will be introduced through the Environment Bill and Defra is currently exploring the practical mechanisms to deliver and measure Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 8.4 The Councils are currently working with the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre to design a services-based framework for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, with a clear role for Local Environmental Record Centres to strengthen local biodiversity evidence base.

### *Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans*

- 8.5 Adur & Worthing Councils are preparing a [Joint Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan \(LCWIP\)](#). The purpose of the document is to support the development of safe routes for cycling and walking and increase the uptake of cycling and walking. It is the Government's ambition that walking and cycling is the natural choice for short journeys or form part of a longer journey. The key outputs of the LCWIP are:
- a network plan for walking and cycling which identifies preferred routes and core zones for further development
  - a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment.

### *Sustainable Transport Package*

- 8.6 West Sussex County Council are investigating the scope to improve walking and cycling facilities in Adur and Worthing through Area Sustainable Transport Package (STP) feasibility studies and Road Space Audits, in particular to consider how improved facilities can support planned development and economic growth. WSCC and Adur & Worthing Councils are working together to ensure that the STP dovetails with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Routes that are being explored under the STP work are identified on the proposed primary and secondary cycling routes later in the LCWIP.

### *Public Realm Improvements*

- 8.7 Worthing Borough Council and West Sussex County Council are working in partnership (Growth Deal) to deliver a series of public realm improvements (£5m - £10 million) to Worthing Town Centre. The aim of the scheme is to improve the quality of connections between Worthing train station, the seafront and key redevelopment sites. The areas for

focused improvements are: Montague Street; Portland Road, South Street; Chapel Road and Worthing Station / Teville Gate.

*Air Quality and emissions mitigation guidance for Sussex 2019*

8.8 Air quality is a material consideration in deciding a planning application. As such the purpose of the guidance is to:

1. provide clarity to how authorities intend interpreting relevant Local Plan policies,
2. provide advice for developers and their consultants on how to assess and mitigate the impact that new developments may have on local air quality;
3. detail a consistent approach by developers and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to address impacts on local air quality ensure optimum scheme design and avoid unnecessary delays in the planning process.

8.9 Developers or their air quality consultants are strongly encouraged to enter into pre-application discussion with the Council, including the air quality officer, as early as possible to avoid unnecessary delays and to discuss site-specific considerations.

## **9. Additional Information / Resources**

*Adur & Worthing Councils Sustainable AW*

9.1 Working with the local community and collaborating with partners, we plan to tackle some of the biggest environmental issues of our time, from air pollution and clean energy to water efficiency, waste recycling and loss of biodiversity. [Sustainable AW](#) is an ambitious project for Adur & Worthing Councils which builds on commitments already made in the Councils' Platforms for our Places, and it will focus on six key areas:

- Transport
- Energy
- Waste
- Water
- Carbon emissions (from gas, electricity and oil use)
- Biodiversity.

*WSCC Guidance on Parking at New Developments (2019)*

9.2 This [document](#) sets out guiding principles on the provision of electric charging points and Electric Vehicle car parking spaces within new developments.

*WSSC Cycling Design Guide (2019)*

- 9.3 This [document](#) conveys the vision for better cycling infrastructure in West Sussex and complements the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016 - 2026. It is intended to support decision makers and set out more clearly what is expected of developers and provides technical solutions appropriate to specific scenarios that support all cycle users when planning for new development.

*TCPA & RTPI - Rising to the Climate Crisis (2018)*

- 9.4 The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) have published [guidance](#) for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change.

*Planning for Climate Change - Law and Policy Briefing (2019)*

- 9.5 TCPA, RTPI and ClientEarth have produced a short briefing [document](#) which outlines the key overarching legislative and policy requirements for local planning authorities on climate change.

## **10. Conclusion**

- 10.1 Climate change will impact on where we live, work and play and therefore effective spatial planning is an important part of a successful response to climate emergency as it can influence mitigation and adaptation approaches implemented through plan-making and decision-taking. This is a live document and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it keeps pace with the evolving climate change agenda as well as reflecting current best practice.

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