## **Chapter 3 - Spatial Strategy**

## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM5**

## Para / Policy: SS1 - Spatial Strategy

#### **Description of modification:**

• Revise criterion a)

#### **Reason for Modification:**

• In response to revised NPPF (July 2021) - Paragraph 20.

#### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Policy SS1:

Up to 2036 delivery of new development in Worthing will be managed as follows:

The Local Plan will:

a) seek to provide for the needs of local communities and balance the impact of growth through the protection and enhancement of local services and (where appropriate) the safeguarding of employment sites, leisure uses, community facilities, valued green/open spaces and natural resources;

b) help to deliver wider regeneration objectives, particularly in the town centre and seafront, through the allocation of key urban sites;

c) seek to increase the rate of housing delivery from small sites.

d) The strategy for different parts of the Borough is as follows:

i) Land within the Built Up Area Boundary - development will be permitted subject to compliance with other policies in the Local Plan. Development should make efficient use of previously developed land but the density of development should be appropriate for its proposed use and also relate well to the surrounding uses and the character of the area. Within the existing urban fabric nine key regeneration sites are allocated for development.

ii) Edge Of Town Sites - six edge of town sites are allocated for development.

iii)Open Spaces / Countryside / Gaps - valued open space and landscapes outside of the Built Up Area Boundary are protected. This includes important gaps between settlements, the undeveloped coastline and the features which provide connectivity between these areas.

### Text proposed by MM5 - Policy SS1:

Up to 2036 delivery of new development in Worthing will be managed as follows:

The Local Plan will:

a) will seek to deliver high quality development and provide for the needs of local communities and balance the impact of growth through the protection and enhancement of local services and (where appropriate) the safeguarding of employment sites, leisure uses, community facilities, valued green/open spaces and natural resources;

b) help to deliver wider regeneration objectives, particularly in the town centre and seafront, through the allocation of key urban sites;

c) seek to increase the rate of housing delivery from small sites.

d) The strategy for different parts of the Borough is as follows:

i) Land within the Built Up Area Boundary - development will be permitted subject to compliance with other policies in the Local Plan. Development should make efficient use of previously developed land but the density of development should be appropriate for its proposed use and also relate well to the surrounding uses and the character of the area. Within the existing urban fabric nine key regeneration sites are allocated for development.

ii) Edge Of Town Sites - five edge of town sites are allocated for development.

iii) Open Spaces / Countryside / Gaps - valued open space and landscapes outside of the Built Up Area Boundary are protected. This includes important gaps between settlements, the undeveloped coastline and the features which provide connectivity between these areas.

## Proposed Modification Reference: MM6

## Para / Policy: Para 3.21 and SS2 - Development sites

#### **Description of modification:**

- Para 3.21 revised to refer to housing trajectory which has been added as Appendix 1.
- Policy SS2 revised to provide update capacity assumptions

#### **Reason for Modification:**

- To set out the latest position / and in response to SDWLP-55 (WSP on behalf of Worthing Borough Council).
- To provide consistency and in response to Inspector's Initial Question 17 (Ref-IL01).
- To ensure that the WLP is consistent with national policy and in response to MIQ-43
- As discussed at Hearing Sessions to respond to changes being made to site allocations and to make policy effective.

#### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Paragraph 3.21:

3.21 In addition to the allocations referred to above, housing land supply figures include 'windfalls' which are sites that deliver development but that have not been specifically identified in the Local Plan. An explanation as to how this figure is calculated can be found in the Council's Housing Implementation Strategy. Other sources of supply include recent completions and commitments (sites with planning permission including developments that have commenced but not yet completed). These are summarised and incorporated within the table below:

### Text proposed by MM6 - Paragraph 3.21:

3.21 In addition to the allocations referred to above, housing land supply figures include 'windfalls' which are sites that deliver development but that have not been specifically identified in the Local Plan. An explanation as to how this figure is calculated can be found in the Council's Housing Implementation Strategy. Other sources of supply include recent completions and commitments (sites with planning permission including developments that have commenced but not yet completed). but not yet completed). The housing trajectory in Appendix 1 sets out how each of these sources make up the housing supply position over the Plan period and when delivery is expected. These are also summarised and incorporated within the table below.

#### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Policy SS2:

SS2 - Site Allocations

During the period 2020-2036

a) a minimum of 3,672 dwellings (net) will be delivered in Worthing. The following allocations will make a significant contribution to this figure.

b) a minimum of 28,000 sqm of employment floorspace (industrial and warehousing) and 10,000 sqm of commercial (retail and leisure) floorspace will be provided

WLP Ref	Slte	Dwellings	Main Other Uses (Approximate Floorspace)
A1	Beeches Avenue	90	N/A
A2	Caravan Club Titnore Way	100	N/A
A3	Centenary House	250	10,000 sqm - Office space (part re-provided)
A4	Civic Centre, Stoke Abbott Road	0	7,000 sqm - Integrated health hub

A5	Decoy Farm	0	18,000 sqm - Industrial / Warehousing	
A6	Fulbeck Avenue	120	120 N/A	
A7	Grafton	150	2,500 sqm Commercial / Leisure / Retail	
A8	HMRC Offices, Barrington Road	250	Care Home / Sheltered accommodation	
A9	Lyndhurst Road	150	N/A	
A10	Martlets Way	0	10,000 sqm Industrial / Warehousing	
A11	Stagecoach, Marine Parade	60	2,000 sqm Commercial / Leisure	
A12	Teville Gate	250	4,000 sqm - Commercial / Leisure / Retail and 80 bed hotel	
A13	Titnore Lane	60	N/A	
A14	Union Place	150	700 sqm - commercial / 90 room hotel / cinema extension	
A15	Upper Brighton Road	123	N/A	
	TOTAL	1,753		

## Text proposed by MM6 - Policy SS2:

SS2 - Site Allocations

During the period 2020-2036

a) a minimum of 3,672 dwellings (net) will be delivered in Worthing. The following allocations will make a significant contribution to this figure.

b) a minimum of 24,000 sqm of employment floorspace (industrial and warehousing) and 9,200 sqm of commercial (retail and leisure) floorspace will be provided.

WLP Ref	Site	Dwellings (Indicative)	Main Other Uses (Approximate Floorspace)
A1	Beeches Avenue	90	N/A
A2	Caravan Club Titnore Way	100	N/A
A3	Centenary House	250	10,000 sqm - Employment (part re-provided)
A4	Civic Centre, Stoke Abbott Road	0	7,000 sqm - Integrated health hub
A5	Decoy Farm	0	14,000 sqm - Employment
A6	Fulbeck Avenue	152	N/A
A7	Grafton	150	2,500 sqm Commercial
A8	HMRC Offices, Barrington Road	250	Care Home / Sheltered accommodation
A9	Lyndhurst Road	150	N/A
A10	Martlets Way	28	10,000 sqm Employment
A11	Stagecoach, Marine Parade	60	2,000 sqm Commercial
A12	Teville Gate	250	4,000 sqm - Commercial
A13	Union Place	150	700 sqm - Commercial
A14	Upper Brighton Road	123	N/A
	TOTAL	1,753	

## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM7**

## Para / Policy: Para 3.36 and SS3 - Town Centre

### **Description of modification:**

- Wording added to first bullet point below para 3.36
- Policy SS3 revised improve flow and new criterion g) added

## **Reason for Modification:**

- As discussed at Hearing Sessions and to make policy effective.
- In response to SDWLP-18 (Transition Town Worthing CIC).
- In response to SDWLP-57 (Sussex Wildlife Trust).

## Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Paragraph 3.36:

• Retail - continue to support retail as valuable use but as part of a wider mix of uses.

## Text proposed by MM7 - Paragraph 3.36:

• Retail - continue to support retail as valuable use but as part of a wider mix of uses. Encourage and support new forms of retail, particularly small local independent retailers.

### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Policy SS3:

## SS3 TOWN CENTRE

a) To ensure that Worthing Town Centre continues to fulfil its sub-regional role, it is important to provide development that meets both quantitative and qualitative needs. New retail, leisure, office and other town centre use development will therefore, usually be directed to the Town Centre.

b) Improving and increasing the mix of uses in the Town Centre particularly retail, employment, community, residential, leisure, recreation, cultural and tourist facilities through maximising development around key development sites and through the more efficient use of existing sites.

c) Making it easier and more convenient to move around and spend time in the Town Centre by identifying key public realm enhancements, opportunities for new public spaces and improving sustainable movement patterns particularly pedestrian, cycle and public transport provision.

d) Establishing a stronger Town Centre identity and structure by reinforcing and improving the interrelationship between key locations including the railway station, the shopping areas, and the seafront, and making the Town Centre more cohesive and legible.

e) Ensuring that the Town Centre and seafront are one integrated and linked destination. Active and vibrant uses along the key Town Centre seafront area will be supported.

f) Delivering development, which has high architectural, urban design and environmental performance and sustainability standards.

## Text proposed by MM7 - Policy SS3:

## SS3 TOWN CENTRE

To ensure that Worthing Town Centre continues to fulfil its sub-regional role, it is important to provide development that meets both quantitative and qualitative needs. To achieve this the Council will:

a) Ensure that retail, leisure, office and other town centre use development is usually directed to the Town Centre.

b) Improve and increase the mix of uses in the Town Centre particularly retail, employment, community, residential, leisure, recreation, cultural and tourist facilities through maximising development around key development sites and through the more efficient use of existing sites.

c) Make it easier and more convenient to move around and spend time in the Town Centre by identifying key public realm enhancements, opportunities for new public spaces and improving sustainable movement patterns particularly pedestrian, cycle and public transport provision.

d) Establish a stronger Town Centre identity and structure by reinforcing and improving the interrelationship between key locations including the railway station, the shopping areas, and the seafront, and making the Town Centre more cohesive and legible.

e) Ensure that the Town Centre and seafront are one integrated and linked destination. Active and vibrant uses along the key Town Centre seafront area will be supported.

f) Deliver development, which has high architectural, urban design and environmental performance and sustainability standards.

g) As part of the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy the Council will consider opportunities to integrate biodiversity within the town centre to address climate adaptation and ecological connectivity.

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## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM8**

Para / Policy: SS4 - Countryside and undeveloped coast

**Description of modification:** 

• Policy SS4 criterion a) and b) have been revised and text has been added to criterion f).

### **Reason for Modification:**

- To reflect para 176 of NPPF and to ensure consistency with National Policy.
- In response to SDWLP-73 (SDNPA)
- Conformity with NPPF

## Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Policy SS4:

## SS4 COUNTRYSIDE AND UNDEVELOPED COAST

a) Outside of the Built Up Area Boundary land will be defined as 'countryside and undeveloped coast'.

b) Development in the countryside will be permitted, where a countryside location is essential to the proposed use, it cannot be located within the Built Up Area Boundary, and it maintains its character and function for natural resources.

c) Development to support recreation uses on the coast will normally be permitted subject to:

i. built facilities being located within the adjacent Built Up Area Boundary;

ii. the need to maintain and improve sea defences.

d) Any development in the countryside and undeveloped coast should not result in a level of activity that has an adverse impact on the character or biodiversity of the area.

e) Improvements to green infrastructure, including (but not restricted to) enhanced pedestrian, cycle, equestrian access, and better access for those with mobility difficulties will be supported.

f) The setting of the South Downs National Park and the Designated International Dark Skies Reserve must be respected and opportunities to improve access to the National Park will be sought through joint working with other organisations including the Park Authority, West Sussex County Council, Highways England and landowners.

### Text proposed by MM8 - Policy SS4:

### SS4 COUNTRYSIDE AND UNDEVELOPED COAST

a) Outside of the Built Up Area Boundary land (excluding sites designated as Local Green Space under SS6) will be defined as 'countryside and undeveloped coast'.

b) Development in the countryside will be permitted where a countryside location is essential to the proposed use. Applications for the development of entry-level exception sites, suitable for first time buyers or those looking to rent their first home will be supported where these:

- comprise of entry-level homes that offer one or more types of affordable housing;
- are adjacent to existing settlements, and proportionate in size to them; and
- comply with any local design policies and standards.

c) Development to support recreation uses on the coast will normally be permitted subject to:

i. built facilities being located within the adjacent Built Up Area Boundary;

ii. the need to maintain and improve sea defences.

d) Any development in the countryside and undeveloped coast should not result in a level of activity that has an adverse impact on the character or biodiversity of the area.

e) Improvements to green infrastructure, including (but not restricted to) enhanced pedestrian, cycle, equestrian access, and better access for those with mobility difficulties will be supported.

f) The setting of the South Downs National Park and the Designated International Dark Skies Reserve must be respected and opportunities to improve access to the National Park will be sought through joint working with other organisations including the Park Authority, West Sussex County Council, National Highways and landowners. Any development within the setting of the National Park should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM9**

## Para / Policy: SS5 - Local green gaps

#### **Description of modification:**

• Policy SS5 revised to clarify the relationship between policies SS4, SS56 and SS6.

#### **Reason for Modification:**

- As discussed during the Hearing Session. To clarify policy position and to ensure consistency with national policy.
- In response to SDWLP-43 (Southern Water).

#### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Policy SS5:

#### SS5 LOCAL GREEN GAPS

The four areas listed below are designated as Local Green Gaps between the settlements of Worthing & Ferring and Worthing & Sompting/Lancing, and will be protected in order to retain the separate identities and character of these settlements.

- a) Goring-Ferring Gap;
- b) Chatsmore Farm;
- c) Brooklands Recreation Area and abutting allotments; and
- d) Land east of proposed development (site A15) at Upper Brighton Road.

Development within these Gaps will be carefully controlled and will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Any development must be consistent with other policies in this Plan and ensure (individually or cumulatively):

i) it does not lead to the coalescence of settlements;

ii) it is unobtrusive and does not detract from the openness of the area;

iii) it conserves and enhances the benefits and services derived from the area's Natural Capital; and

iv) it conserves and enhances the area as part of a cohesive green infrastructure network.

### Text proposed by MM9 - Policy SS5:

### SS5 LOCAL GREEN GAPS

The four areas listed below are designated as Local Green Gaps between the settlements of Worthing & Ferring and Worthing & Sompting/Lancing, and will be protected in order to retain the separate identities and character of these settlements.

- a) Goring-Ferring Gap;
- b) Chatsmore Farm;
- c) Brooklands Recreation Area and abutting allotments; and
- d) Land east of proposed development (site A15) at Upper Brighton Road.

Outside of those areas designated as Local Green Space, all applications for development (including entry level exception sites) within Local Green Gaps must demonstrate that individually or cumulatively:

i) it would not undermine the physical and/or visual separation of settlements;

ii) it would not compromise the integrity of the gap;

iii) it conserves and enhances the benefits and services derived from the area's Natural Capital; and

iv) it conserves and enhances the area as part of a cohesive green infrastructure network.

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## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM10**

## Para / Policy: Para 3.54-3.60 and Policy SS6 - Local green spaces

### **Description of modification:**

- Paras 3.54-5.60 revised to respond to the reduced number of Local Green Spaces and to clarify the role of LGS designation
- Policy SS6 revised to clarify the relationship between policies SS4, SS56 and SS6.
- Policy SS6 revised to respond to the reduced number of Local Green Spaces

#### **Reason for Modification:**

• As discussed during the Hearing Session. To clarify the policy position and to ensure consistency with national policy.

#### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Paragraphs 5.54-3.60:

### Local Green Space

3.54 The NPPF introduced Local Green Space designation as a mechanism for local communities to identify and protect green spaces which are of particular importance to them. It provides special protection equivalent to that afforded by the Green Belt. The designation should only be used where the land is not extensive, is local in character and reasonably close to the community it serves. It must also be demonstrably special, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or wildlife.

3.55 There are three areas that the Council has designated as Local Green Spaces: Goring-Ferring Gap; Chatsmore Farm; and the Brooklands Recreation Area.

3.56 The first two areas have been proposed for designation by the local community. Brooklands Recreation Area has been added as the area has recently attracted a growing and active 'friends of Brooklands' community group and there is considerable interest in the development of a long-term management plan for the park. All three areas were assessed by a landscape consultant on behalf of the Council to determine their potential for designation as Local Green Space (June 2018) and were found to fully meet the NPPF criteria for designation. A brief summary of each Gap is set out below - further detailed information on all aspects can be found within the associated Topic Paper.

## Goring-Ferring Gap

3.57 The Goring-Ferring Gap, that comprises flat arable fields, provides a valued break in the coastal conurbation and a visual connection between the undeveloped coastline and the South Downs National Park to the north. The Goring Residents' Association and the Ilex Conservation Group (with the support of the Ferring Conservation Group, Ferring Parish Council and Ward Councillors) presented information in support of its request to designate this gap as Local Green Space. It is valued for its historic associations, views, wildlife, (it is a designated Local Wildlife Site), and opportunities to bird-watch, stargaze and enjoy quiet recreation. It is also recognised for the relative tranquillity it affords in an otherwise heavily built up area. On the matter of landscape sensitivity, in the wider context it should be noted that this Gap covers 33 hectares in Worthing Borough and adjoins 29 hectares in Arun District. Of the sites assessed within Arun to support the development of their Local Plan this gap was shown as being the most sensitive in nature.

#### Chatsmore Farm

3.58 Chatsmore Farm, that covers 28 hectares in Worthing and 2 hectares in Arun, comprises arable fields with the Ferring Rife flowing east to west crossing the middle of the site. The Goring Residents' Association's request to designate the green space between Goring and Ferring included this area. The request highlighted its historic associations, wildlife and recreational value, and its offer as a haven of relative calm within the urban area. In addition, the land is in the setting of the South Downs National Park and the Grade II\* Registered Park and Garden 'Highdown Garden' which lie to the north.

#### **Brooklands Recreation Area**

3.59 The 30 hectare Brooklands Recreation Area, located on the eastern edge of Worthing, is a well-loved local amenity that comprises a lake, play areas, recreation facilities and extensive areas of semi-natural open space. It is designated as Local

Green Space for its local significance to recreation, wildlife and beauty. The site also provides the wider ecosystem service benefits of drainage and flood protection relief.

3.60 Brooklands has attracted significant levels of public support for the environmental improvements already made and those that are being planned. In 2017 a 'friends of Brooklands' community group was established, and in early 2018 local residents were consulted about plans to create a management plan for the park. More recently, the Brooklands Park Masterplan has been prepared which has taken account of feedback from the local community and the results of an ecological study. Forthcoming enhancements, a limited amount of built development and the implementation of the Masterplan proposals for a science adventure park will increase Brooklands' recreation and wildlife value and enhance its scenic beauty

#### Text proposed by MM10 - Paragraphs (formerly) 3.54-3.60:

#### Local Green Space

3.54 The NPPF introduced Local Green Space designation as a mechanism for local communities to identify and protect green spaces which are of particular importance to them. The designation should only be used where the land is not extensive, is local in character and reasonably close to the community it serves. It must also be demonstrably special, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or wildlife.

3.55 Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts. The fundamental aim of green belt policy is to keep the land permanently open. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this are set out in the NPPF.

3.56 The 30 hectare Brooklands Recreation Area, located on the eastern edge of Worthing, is a well-loved local amenity that comprises a lake, play areas, recreation facilities and extensive areas of semi-natural open space. It is designated as Local Green Space for its local significance to recreation, wildlife and beauty. The site also provides the wider ecosystem service benefits of drainage and flood protection relief. Brooklands Recreation Area provides a mix of semi-natural open space and recreation/leisure facilities on a scale that is suitable to this area of open and managed landscape. The lake itself has three main functions providing drainage and flood prevention relief; leisure and amenity; and wildlife value.

3.57 Brooklands has attracted significant levels of public support for the environmental improvements already made and those that are being planned. In 2017 a 'friends of Brooklands' community group was established and local residents were consulted about plans to create a management plan. More recently, the Brooklands Park Masterplan has been prepared which has taken account of feedback from the local community and the results of an ecological study. Forthcoming enhancements, a limited amount of appropriate built development and the implementation of the Masterplan proposals for a science adventure park will increase Brooklands' recreation and wildlife value and enhance its scenic beauty.

#### Text from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Policy SS6:

### SS6 LOCAL GREEN SPACE

The three areas listed below are designated as Local Green Space:

a) Goring-Ferring Gap:

The Goring Ferring Gap is designated as Local Green Space because the community value: its historic associations including important views that contribute strongly to a sense of place; wildlife; opportunities for bird-watching, stargazing, and quiet recreation; and the provision of relative tranquility in an otherwise unrelieved urban conurbation.

i) Increased quiet and informal recreation would be compatible with this designation. However, additional formal recreation or structures to support informal recreation could damage the qualities for which the Goring-Ferring Gap is valued. Any proposal would have to demonstrate that it does not conflict with those values.

### b) Chatsmore Farm:

Chatsmore Farm is designated as Local Green Space because the community value: its setting to the historic environment and the South Downs National Park; important views that contribute strongly to a sense of place; wildlife, especially along the Ferring Rife; and the offer of escape from the urban environment for relaxation and exercise.

ii) Increased quiet and informal recreation would be compatible with this designation. Whilst some formal recreation space could be considered it would be important that it did not conflict with the qualities for which Chatsmore Farm is valued.

c) Brooklands Recreation Area:

Brooklands Recreation Area provides a mix of semi-natural open space and recreation/leisure facilities on a scale that is suitable to this area of open and managed landscape. The lake itself has three main functions providing drainage and flood prevention relief; leisure and amenity; and wildlife value.

iii)Development in Brooklands will not normally be permitted unless it is for recreation and/or landscape enhancement; does not compromise the functions of the lake or its long term maintenance; is compatible with the park's long-term management plan; uses the existing road access or a new access taken from Western Road; does not adversely impact on nearby residents significantly; and adequately investigates and takes measures to deal with contaminated land and potential for landfill gas emissions.

iv) Land to the north of the managed park area, which is currently overgrown with scrub and mature trees, could benefit from management. Proposals that may be acceptable, subject to the above points, could include a more managed woodland area with the possibility of open green space and/or an additional recreational facility of suitable scale and materials that sits appropriately screened in the semi-natural environment. Enhancement of boundary and internal tree cover will be required to conserve the separation between East Worthing and Lancing including when viewed from the National Park.

#### Text proposed by MM10 - Policy SS6:

## SS6 - LOCAL GREEN SPACE

Brooklands Recreation Area is designated as Local Green Space. Any proposals for development within this area will be considered in accordance with national planning policy for Green Belt.

## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM11**

## Para / Policy: Local Green Gap Map

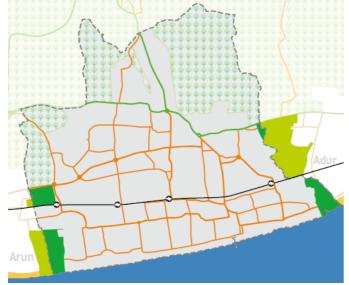
#### **Description of modification:**

- Boundary of the LGG designations amended so that they don't extend onto the beach / coastline / sea
- Boundary to Brooklands Recreation Area amended to exclude land within Southern Water's ownership
- Correct previous mapping error in northwest corner of the LGG to the east of the Borough (note the correct boundary was set out on the Proposals Map and the Mapping Extracts Document published for consultation Jan 2021)

#### **Reason for Modification:**

• To correct previous mapping errors

#### Local Green Gap Map from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Page 61:



Local Green Gap Map proposed by MM11: Page 61



## **Proposed Modification Reference: MM12**

Para / Policy: Local Green Space Map

### **Description of modification:**

- Heading of map amended to refer to single Local green Space (rather than 'Spaces')
- Revised to remove the two parcels of land shown as Local Green Space to the west of the borough.
- Boundary of the LGS designation amended so that it doesn't extend onto the beach / coastline / sea

- Boundary to Brooklands Recreation Area amended to exclude land within Southern Water's ownership
- Revision to correct previous mapping error in north west corner LGS designation (note the correct boundary was set out on the Proposals Map and the Mapping Extracts Document published for consultation Jan 2021)

### **Reason for Modification:**

- As discussed during the Hearing Session and to ensure that the WLP is effective
- To correct previous mapping errors

## Local Green Space Map from Submission Draft Worthing Local Plan - Page 61:



# Local Green Space Map proposed by MM12: Page 63

