

Adur Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping: Consultation Summary

January 2024

Introduction

Adur District Council is currently preparing an update of the Local Plan, which will provide an overarching planning framework for Adur District excluding the area included in the South Downs National Park.

To support the development of the new Local Plan, the Council is required by law to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The first stage in the SA process is to produce a SA Scoping Report to decide on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA Report. A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the SA is proportionate and relevant to the plan being assessed.

Consultation was undertaken with the consultation bodies which in England are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, as well as neighbouring authorities. Consultation ran from 18th November 2024 until the 23rd December 2024.

An Adur Local Plan Key Issues public consultation also ran from 26th November 2024 until 5th January 2025. This early stage consultation sought views on the issues and challenges facing the local plan area. The consultation was based on information contained in the SA Scoping Report but made more accessible to local communities to help make the process more transparent and open to public participation. The results of this consultation are reported separately.

Responses

Responses were received from all the consultation bodies - Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Responses were also received from Arun District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

A summary of the comments received and an officer response to these is set out below. The response from Natural England was a standard response therefore as no specific comments were made, none have been included in the table below.

Organisation	Comment	Officer response
Arun District Council Environment Agency Historic England	Report is comprehensive and covers the main matters for consideration under the SA	Noted
Arun District Council Environment Agency	Reference should be made to the upcoming West Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Agree
Arun District Council South Downs National Park Authority	Suggested additions and amendments to Table 1	Agree - will be reviewed. Table 1 aimed to be proportionate and focus on those that were directly relevant to the Local Plan.
South Downs National Park Authority	Reference should be made to the new NPPF December 2024.	This report was prepared and published before publication of the 2024 NPPF. Future reports will reflect the most up to date version of the NPPF.

South Downs National Park Authority	Reference should also be made to AMRs as these will provide an up to date reference for the baseline information	Ideally the use of AMRs to form the baseline would help provide the most relevant information for the Local Plan and provide a means to assess the impact of the current Local Plan. Unfortunately due to a lack of Council resources it has not been possible to publish full AMRs for Adur or Worthing and therefore this data is not available. The SA report will highlight this limitation.
South Downs National Park Authority	Referencing, broken weblinks and typos	Agree - will be reviewed
South Downs National Park Authority	Table 2 – summary might be better placed at the end of the baseline information as it contains a number of acronyms and information that is unclear without reading the baseline detail first.	Agree
South Downs National Park Authority	There is some repetition in para 6.1.4.	This is the nature of the issues being so interdependent
South Downs National Park Authority	Clarify table 8 to make clear what are objectives, sub objectives and decision aiding questions	Agree
South Downs National Park Authority	Regeneration doesn't feature in the baseline information but does appear as an objective. What is the background evidence?	Agree this objective will be reviewed.
South Downs National Park Authority	In Table 10 – what does the 'action' column mean?	Action refers to the score given for the sites - this can be renamed for clarity
South Downs National	What were the results/comments from the 2022	The report makes clear that there have

Park Authority	consultation exercise? Have these been taken on board?	been significant changes at the local and national level since the 2022 scoping report. As such it is considered appropriate to restart the process.
South Downs National Park Authority	In para 7.1.3 – what is footnote 68?	Paragraph 7.1.3 makes clear this is referring to the NPPF
Environment Agency	'Table 10: Ideally the criteria would also include consideration of the cumulative impacts from all sources of flooding to assist with the sequential test (as per the Planning Practice Guidance for Flood risk and coastal change).	The SFRA provides evidence on cumulative risk based on catchments. This can be added to the site criteria to ensure it is captured and fed into the sequential test.