

Subject:	Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton updated Local Strategic Statement for Delivering Sustainable Growth 2015 – 2031		
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2016		
Report of:	Executive Director for Environment, Housing and Development		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Liz Hobden	Tel: 29-2504
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The report seeks approval of an update to the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) Local Strategic Statement (LSS). The LSS is an important mechanism for local authorities in the area to identify and deliver priorities for strategic planning, development and infrastructure. It also assists with delivering priorities of the Greater Brighton City Region and Devolution Bid and Local Growth Fund. LSS is not a statutory document and therefore relies on the voluntary consensus of all partners around the shared priorities. A copy of the LSS update is included as an appendix to the report.
- 1.2 The LSS is important evidence to demonstrate that the requirements of Duty to Cooperate have been met and have been an integral part of plan-making across the area. The LSS also contains the terms of reference for the CWS&GB Strategic Planning Board and a Memorandum of Understanding between the constituent authorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee agrees the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement update January 2016 and the attached Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference; and notes that the LSS will be subject to a full review in the medium term to assist with future development plan reviews and infrastructure planning.
- 2.2 That the committee notes the purpose and content of the LSS Monitoring and Delivery Framework in annex 4 of the LSS.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2012 the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Coastal West Sussex area (Adur , Arun, Chichester, Worthing along with West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority) together with Brighton & Hove City Council and Lewes District Council agreed to establish a new Coastal West Sussex Strategic Planning Board to facilitate joint planning work. The Board, which comprises lead councillors from each of the member LPAs works in an advisory capacity with all decision-making through the individual member authorities. This initiative allows, amongst other things, the requirements of Duty to Cooperate to be met and the Coastal West Sussex approach has been highlighted nationally as an example of best practice.
- 3.2 Following this a Local Strategic Statement was prepared for the area and was agreed at the Board Meeting in late 2013 and subsequently agreed by Brighton & Hove at EDC Committee in January 2014. The 2014 LSS set out the long term strategic objectives for the period 2013-2031 and the Spatial Priorities for delivering these in the short to medium term 2013-2020. The 2014 LSS focuses on the strategic issues across the area or that will impact on the long term sustainability of the area, providing a background for local plans and the business priorities of key stakeholders.
- 3.2 The LSS has been updated for a number of reasons including:
- a widened geography – Mid Sussex and Horsham Districts now included;
 - up to date joint background evidence prepared on Economy, Housing and Transport;
 - the need to reflect up to date regeneration initiatives, e.g. Local Growth Fund and Greater Brighton work.
- 3.4 The updated LSS has been prepared in close consultation with the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Planning Officer Group and was the subject of consultation at a stakeholder event held in November 2015. There is consensus across on the content and priorities in the document across the ten authorities. The document was subsequently agreed by the Strategic Planning Board on 18 January 2016. Each authority will need to agree the document at their individual decision-making meetings.
- 3.5 The updated LSS remains broadly unchanged in terms of the strategic objectives however the findings and recommendations of up to date evidence and for example identified funding for transport infrastructure has been added. The strategic objectives remain:
- Delivering Sustainable Economic Growth
 - Meeting Strategic Housing Needs
 - Investing in Infrastructure
 - Managing Environmental Assets and Natural Resources
- 3.6 The 2014 LSS also identified five spatial priorities identified for regeneration that would have a strategic impact and benefits for the wider area. There was a commitment as part of the LSS for the LPAs to work with partners to support the development of strategic employment and housing sites, by giving priority to the

infrastructure improvements needed to enable the sites to be delivered. The 2014 LSS identified the following locations as the focus for attention:

- Shoreham Harbour and Brighton Airport, Shoreham
- Chichester City/Tangmere/Bognor Regis
- Littlehampton
- Worthing's Key Town Centre Sites
- Greater Brighton City Region

3.7 The LSS update adds the following areas and significant updates to the Greater Brighton City Region to correspond with recent proposals in relation to Greater Brighton and the Devolution Bid.

- Brighton – Seafront and Brighton City Centre – which includes key strategic sites within the area including the Valley Gardens infrastructure improvements
- Burgess Hill
- Newhaven
- Rural Sussex

3.8 It is important to note that the LSS update is an interim position and that a full review of the LSS will be required to address a number of key strategic planning issues across the wider area including economic growth, the need to address the shortfall in meeting housing requirements; and to look at measures/infrastructure to unlock key regeneration sites. This will assist with Duty to Cooperate. A report setting out options for a full review to inform the next round of Local Plans will be considered initially by Strategic Planning Board in April 2016.

3.9 The LSS also aims to ensure alignment with the work of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB), the delivery of the Greater Brighton City Deal, and the delivery of the emerging priorities in the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan. A presentation on the document was made to the GBEB in January.

3.9.1 The LSS also contains as annexes the updated terms of reference for the CWS&GB Strategic Planning Board and a memorandum of understanding that establishes a framework for co-operation between the ten LPAs with respect to strategic planning and development issues.

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The option to not undertake an update/refresh of the LSS and go straight to a full review was considered and was discounted on the basis that the CWS and GB authorities would need an update to demonstrate effective Duty to Cooperate working to assist with Local Plan adoption.

4.2 A full review of the LSS is considered necessary in the medium term (within 3 years) to address strategic planning challenges in the area including housing delivery and infrastructure planning across the wider area. This will assist with Duty to Cooperate working and future Local Plan reviews.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The LSS update has been the subject of workshops held in October and November 2015. The first comprised planning and economic development officers from the relevant authorities. At the second key stakeholders from across the strategic area were invited, Views were collated and shaped the document.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The LSS is important evidence to demonstrate that the requirements of Duty to Cooperate have been met and have been an integral part of plan-making across the area. The LSS is an important mechanism for local authorities in the area to identify and deliver strategic priorities for housing delivery, development and infrastructure planning. It also assists with delivering priorities of the Greater Brighton City Region and Devolution Bid and Local Growth Fund
- 6.2 The report seeks approval of an update to the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) Local Strategic Statement (LSS) and that the intention to undertake a full review of the LSS within three years is noted.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The costs to the council associated with updating the Statement and the Memorandum have been funded from existing revenue budget within the Planning service, as will any future review to assist with future development plan reviews. Where technical studies are required the costs are split equally between to Board members.

It is anticipated that the Statement will assist in making funding applications for external resources and the development of joint funding bids to deliver the priorities identified.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 25/01/16

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 As noted in the body of the report, the Local Strategic Statement is evidence that the requirements of the “Duty to Cooperate” are being complied with. This duty was introduced by section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 and requires planning authorities to cooperate with each other in the preparation of development plan documents and other local development documents and in the undertaking of certain activities, so far as they relate to a “strategic matter”. A “strategic matter” is defined as “sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure

that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas”.

The Local Strategic Statement accords with this duty.

It is not considered that any adverse human rights implications arise from the report.

Lawyer Consulted: *Name Hilary Woodward* *Date: 28/1/16*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Equalities considerations have been undertaken as part of the work undertaken by individual local authorities on their development plans.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 The LSS has implications for sustainability in terms of sustainable transport, infrastructure provision and protecting the environment and green infrastructure.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 The LSS update and full review (within the next 2-3 years) will be aligned with and help to deliver priorities relating to the Greater Brighton City Region and the LEP.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Other Implications
2. Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton LSS Update January 2016

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton LSS Update October 2014
2. Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex Background Papers 2015

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 Not relevant

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 These have been assessed as part of the consideration of options for the LSS.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 Public health priorities have informed the LSS update

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The updated LSS supports the city's priorities in relation to Greater Brighton priorities and Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Growth Fund

