

**WORTHING
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**WORTHING
LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME**

JANUARY 2021



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I Introduction

- 1.1 Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a public 'project plan', or in other terms, a timetable identifying which planning policy documents will be produced and when. It establishes a three year work programme that allows stakeholders to understand the current and proposed planning policy framework for the area and the associated resource implications. This version of the LDS, when adopted, will cover the period 2021-2023 and will supersede the previous version published by the Council in 2019.
- 1.2 This LDS sets out an up-to-date work programme for the progression of the Worthing Local Plan to adoption. Given the resources required to prepare and adopt a new Local Plan this will be the key priority for the Planning Policy team over the next year. Whilst the Worthing Local Plan is the only Development Plan Document programmed within this LDS other areas work will be progressed by the Planning Policy Team. Therefore, this version of the LDS also establishes the work programme for the Planning Policy Team following the adoption of the Local Plan.

2 What is the current Development Plan?

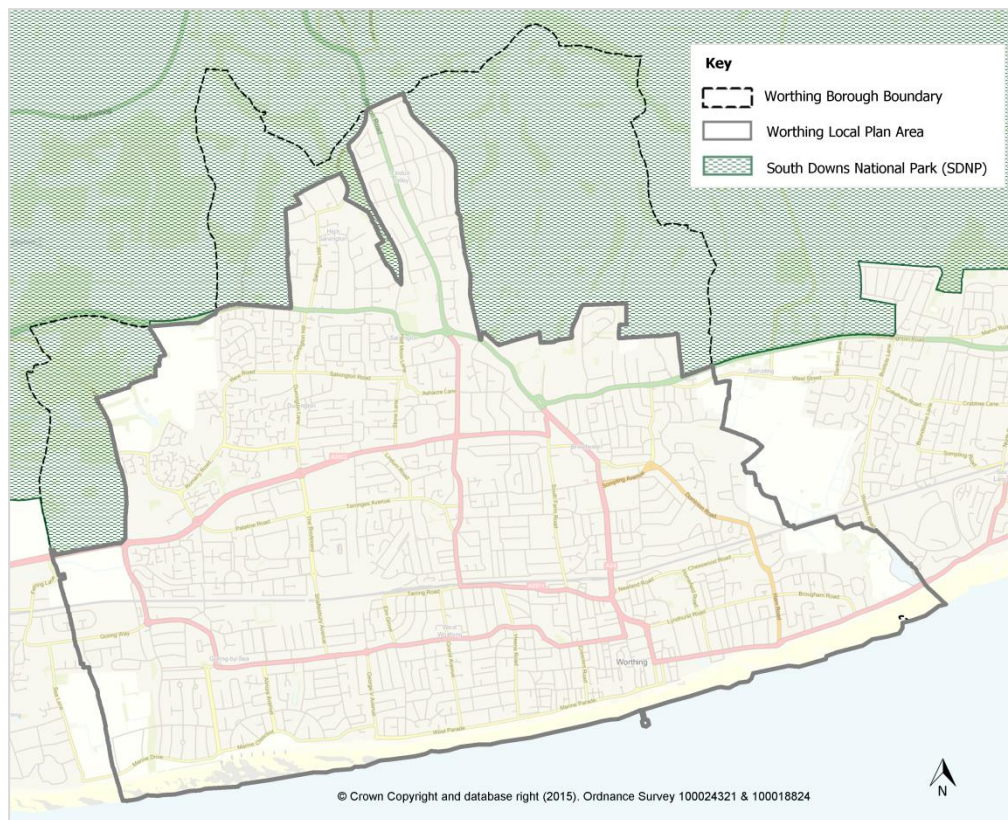
- 2.1 At the time of publishing this LDS the Development Plan for Worthing consists of:
- Worthing Core Strategy 2011
 - Saved policies from the Worthing Local Plan 2003 (see appendix 6 of the Core Strategy)
- 2.2 In addition to the above, the Council has published a number of non-statutory planning guidance documents which have been produced to support planning policies. These will continue to be material planning considerations as long as the principles are in general conformity with national policy.
- 2.3 West Sussex County Council is the Minerals and Waste local planning authority and the policy framework for these matters is contained in:
- West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan – 2018 (WSCC & South Downs National Park Authority)
 - West Sussex Waste Local Plan – 2014

3 The New Local Plan

- 3.1 The Council adopted its Core Strategy in 2011. Following on from this, the Council established a work programme to support and deliver the Vision, Strategic Objectives and policies that had been established. A number of documents to support these aims were put in place. However, in response to changes to the planning system, the Council committed to a review of the Core Strategy and thus the preparation of a new Local Plan for Worthing.
- 3.2 The new Worthing Local Plan, when adopted, will become the primary basis upon which all planning decisions are made in the Borough. It will contain strategic policies, spatial policies, site allocations and development management policies and site allocations for a range of uses including housing and employment.

- 3.3 The Local Plan will cover Worthing Borough excluding the area within the South Downs National Park (see map below). The South Downs National Park Authority is the local planning authority for the South Downs National Park area.

Area to be covered by the Worthing Local Plan



The Plan Making Process

- 3.4 The process of preparing and adopting Development Plans is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. A summary of this process is set out below and then incorporated within the work programme.

Evidence

- 3.5 Plans must be prepared within the context of national policy. They should be in accordance with this unless strong local evidence indicates that variation from this would provide better outcomes in the specific local context. As reported within the Council's Annual Monitoring Report a number of background studies have been published (or are being progressed) to ensure that the evidence base is up-to-date.
- 3.6 A key part of the evidence base is the sustainability appraisal. The appraisal is a systematic, iterative process, integrated into each phase of Plan production to ensure that the Plan proposes the most sustainable pattern of future development possible.
- 3.7 A statutory Duty to Co-operate has formalised working arrangements between Councils and service providers. This ensures partners are fully engaged in the plan preparation

process. Work to address the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate will continue and is reported within the Annual Monitoring Report and the Duty to Co-operate statement.

- 3.8 The Council has prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to ensure that the emerging Worthing Local Plan can be supported by necessary infrastructure provision. The delivery of the right levels and type of infrastructure is essential to support new homes, economic growth and to protect the environment. The IDP is a 'live' evidence base document that will be regularly reviewed and updated as the Local Plan progresses.

Public Participation and Engagement

- 3.9 Community involvement is a key component in shaping the content of the Local Plan. This is an iterative process involving several rounds of engagement in addition to ongoing discussions with interested parties. Public participation is guided by the Councils' Statement of Community Involvement (2019) and the scale and nature of community involvement has varied according to the stage reached.

Progress to Date

- 3.10 The process of preparing a new Local Plan is made up of a number of specific stages. The first stage of consultation, the 'Issues and Options' stage was undertaken in 2016 when the Council sought views on how Worthing should grow and develop. The responses received helped to inform the drafting of the next version of the draft Plan (Regulation 18 - Preferred Approach) which was subject to public consultation between October and December 2018. This consultation identified the need for additional evidence work to be carried out.
- 3.11 Good work been made on the progression of the new Local Plan and the previous version of the LDS indicated that Plan was expected to be submitted for Examination towards the end of 2020. However, although the key stages established in that LDS have been met, these have taken longer than previously envisaged, primarily due to the impacts of Covid-19 when most of the Policy Team were redeployed to other Council services to support the community during the pandemic. As such the timeline has been revised to provide a realistic timeframe for the final stages of Local Plan production.

Submission and Examination

- 3.12 Worthing Borough Council has approved the Regulation 19 Publication version of the Local Plan. It will be published on January 26th 2021 for an eight week period when representations will be invited on issues of soundness and legal compliance. The Council can make limited, minor amendments to the published document at this stage before submitting it (and the representations made) to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate.
- 3.13 Once the Local Plan, its sustainability appraisal and all other supporting documentation have been submitted they will be examined by an independent Inspector. The Inspector is charged with examining whether the document complies with legislation; the duty to co-operate has been met; and whether the proposed plan is sound. If found to be 'sound' the Council can then adopt the Local Plan.
- 3.14 The timeline set out on page 7 below indicates that the Submission of the Plan will be in the spring 2021 with the Examination hearings to be held in the summer / autumn. If this

timeline is met the Council may be in a position to adopt the Local Plan in winter 2021/22. However, it should be noted that the timeline during these latter stages can only be indicative as much will depend on the Planning Inspectorate and their availability to host and then report on the Examination (which is likely to be further complicated by Covid-19 restrictions which may still be in place).

- 3.15 Local Planning Authorities are required by Government to review their Local Plans and policies at least every 5 years from the date of adoption. With this requirement in mind, the LDS indicates that the review of the Local Plan (if adopted in 2021/2) will commence towards the end of 2023.

4 Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.1 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide greater detail on policies within the Council's Development Plan and support decisions on planning applications. The Council has in place a number of SPDs covering a range of topic areas. These, and other guidance documents, can be viewed using the link below.

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/worthing-ldf/spd-and-guidance

- 4.2 A number of SPDs are programmed within this LDS, the majority of which will be progressed following the adoption of the Local Plan. However, work on one SPD, the Green Infrastructure Strategy, has already commenced and it is expected that this will be in place before the end of 2021. This will include the Councils' approach to biodiversity net gain, green infrastructure provision, site selection and off-site contributions.
- 4.3 Following the adoption of the Local Plan prioritisation will be given to the updating of existing SPDs so that they reflect the latest policy position. This includes: the Developer Contributions SPD; Sustainable Economy SPD; and the Guide to Residential Development SPD.
- 4.4 To help interpret and support the policy position to be established in the Local Plan the policy team will prepare an update to the existing 'Climate Change' Position Paper and will provide new guidance on the application of Health Impact Assessments. To meet the Council's commitment set out in Local Plan Policy DM23 (the strategic approach to the historic environment) the LDS also demonstrates how resources will be used to establish a work programme to undertake Conservation Area Appraisals and produce other local heritage guidance.
- 4.5 The indicative timetable for these areas of work is included below on page 8. As work commences on these documents the Council's website will be used to provide more detail on the timetable for each project, particularly when interested parties can be involved. The Annual Monitoring Report will also be used to provide an update on the work programme and any new areas of work that may be advanced over the lifetime of this LDS.

5 Other areas of Work

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Developer Contributions

- 5.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy is a mechanism through which Councils can collect financial contributions from developers toward identified infrastructure needs. The Council adopted CIL in February 2015 with implementation of the CIL Charging Schedule

coming into effect in October 2015. A full review of Worthing CIL has since been undertaken and a consultation on the proposed revised charging rates was held in autumn 2020. The Council submitted its Revised Charging Schedule for Examination in October 2020 and the hearing sessions are scheduled to be held on January 28th 2021. It is hoped that the revised charges will be in place by spring 2021. CIL operates in conjunction with the Council's Developer Contributions SPD.

- 5.2 Further detail relating to CIL, S106 Developer Contributions and the Infrastructure Funding Statement can be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning-policy/worthing/worthing-developer-contributions/>

Neighbourhood Plans

- 5.3 Neighbourhood Plans (NP) give communities the opportunity to come together through a local Parish Council or a Neighbourhood Forum (where there is no Parish Council - as is the case in Worthing) and state where they think new development should go. The matters to be addressed in a NP must be in line with national policies and also the strategic policies in the Local Plan. The creation of NPs is a partnership between the local community and the Council who can advise and support the process. There are currently no NPs currently being progressed in Worthing.

6 Resources

- 6.1 Worthing Borough Council has committed to the adoption of a new Local Plan. Whilst the Planning Policy Team will take the lead in this work, other teams within the Council will be involved at appropriate stages as the Plan is progressed. There are strong project management arrangements and reporting structures in place to coordinate and monitor progress. Key issues are discussed at regular meetings of the cross-party Member Local Working Group and, at appropriate times, progress on the Local Plan has been (and will be) reported to all elected Members and other stakeholders.
- 6.2 Expertise will be sought where relevant from other partners such as the County Council. Consultants may also be engaged on specific projects where there is a lack of capacity in-house, or specialist research is required. The existing Planning Policy budget makes allowance for anticipated costs of Local Plan production, including funding for specialist consultancy work. Public consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft will be delivered within previously approved budget allocations and existing resources. Additional money will be required to fund Examination and funding would need to be met as a one off cost during 2021/22.

7 Risk Assessment and Monitoring

- 7.1 Whilst the timetable for the Local Plan review and other key documents set out in this LDS provides the best indication of the work programme there will always be a level of uncertainty associated with work of this nature. The following arrangements will help to reduce risks and will ensure that planning documents are progressed in line with this LDS:
- Project management and reporting arrangements will ensure that the Local Plan and other key documents are advanced in a transparent manner and that any risks / issues are identified and considered in a timely manner
 - Additional resources may be required in periods of heavy workload

- Consultants may be appointed on short-term contracts to undertake specialist technical studies
- Joint working will take place with neighbouring authorities when appropriate
- Advice on procedural matters and any changes to legislation will be sought from the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Advisory Service

7.2 The LDS will be continually monitored and regular updates will be provided on the Council's website and through the Planning Policy Newsletter. A more formal review of progress will be set out in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. Any significant amendment to the timetable proposed may mean that this LDS will need to be reviewed.

Timetable for the Worthing Local Plan

Stages Undertaken																	
Local Plan Stage	2016	2017				2018				2019				2019			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Updating of evidence & engagement with key stakeholders																	
Issues and Options Consultation																	
Regulation 18 Draft Worthing Local Plan Consultation																	
Approval of Regulation 19 Pre Submission version of Local Plan																	

Timetable 2021/2022								
Local Plan Stage	2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Regulation 19 Pre Submission Consultation								
Submission								
Examination								
Receipt of Inspectors Report								
Adoption								

Indicative Timetable for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and other Policy Documents

Timetable 2021 - 2023												
Supplementary Planning Document	2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD												
Developer Contributions SPD												
Sustainable Economy SPD												
Guide to Residential Development SPD												
Other Planning Policy Documents												
Healthy Communities Guidance												
Climate Change Position Paper (Update)												
Conservation & Heritage (Assessment of proposed new Conservation Areas and appraisal of exiting areas)												
Joint Statement of Community Involvement (update)												
Worthing Local Plan (commence review of adopted Local Plan)												

Note – the Council’s website will be used to provide more detail on the detailed timetable for the progression of these documents, particularly when interested parties can get involved,

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Worthing Borough Council
Planning Policy
Portland House
44, Richmond Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 1HS



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COUNCIL