

Report to Cabinet

24th March 2016

By the Cabinet Member for Planning and Development

INFORMATION REPORT



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton updated Local Strategic Statement for Delivering Sustainable Growth 2015 – 2031 (LSS2)

Executive Summary

It is important to identify and deliver priorities for strategic planning, development and infrastructure. A mechanism for doing this, in the absence of Regional Planning and to meet the duty to cooperate, has been the production of non-statutory Local Strategic Statements across local planning authority areas. The Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) Local Strategic Statement (LSS) has been prepared by the local planning authorities (LPAs) in the sub-region to provide the context for delivering sustainable growth over the period 2013-2031. The northern part of Horsham District is covered by the Gatwick Diamond Local Strategic Statement whilst the southern area did not have any LSS coverage. When the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton authorities decided to update their existing LSS Horsham District were invited to join their Strategic Planning Board (SPB) and take part in drafting the updated LSS. An updated LSS has now been produced which now includes the context and delivery priorities for the southern part of Horsham District.

The purpose of this report is to present the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement and seek its endorsement.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- i) That the updated Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement (LSS2) including Annexes 1-3 be endorsed.
- ii) That Annex 4, the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Monitoring and Delivery Framework (Update January 2016), be noted.

Reasons for Recommendations

- i) 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.
- ii) Annex 4 will remain a living document and updated so it is only noted.

Background Papers

Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement (Updated January 2016) attached at Appendix 2

Wards affected: All.

Contact: Dr Chris Lyons, Director of Planning, Economic Development & Property.

Background Information

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The report seeks the endorsement of an update to the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) Local Strategic Statement (LSS) which now extends into and covers the southern part of Horsham District. The LSS is an important mechanism for local authorities in the area to identify and deliver priorities for strategic planning, development and infrastructure.
- 1.2 The Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) Local Strategic Statement (LSS) is a non-statutory strategic planning document prepared by the local planning authorities (LPAs) in the sub-region to provide the context for delivering sustainable growth over the period 2013-2031. The updated LSS (LSS 2) was formally agreed by the Strategic Planning Board on 18 January 2016 and is appended to this report.
- 1.3 The Local Strategic Statement is also further evidence to support our approach to the Localism Act and its 'Duty to Co-operate'.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 The Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) is the relevant plan that sets out how growth and development will take place in the district. The LSS reflects the strategy and planned development for long term sustainable growth in the HDPF. The LSS focuses on the strategic issues that are shared across CWS&GB or that will impact on the long term sustainability of the area, providing an overlay for local plans and the business priorities of key stakeholders. Unlike local plans, however, the LSS is not a statutory document and therefore relies on the voluntary consensus of all partners around the shared ambitions and priorities.

3 Details

- 3.1 When the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton authorities decided to update their existing LSS Horsham District were invited to join their Strategic Planning Board (SPB) and take part in drafting the updated LSS. An updated LSS has now been produced which now includes the context and delivery priorities for the southern part of Horsham District.
- 3.2 The refreshed Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton LSS 2015-2031 is appended to this report. It sets out four strategic objectives:
 - a. Delivering Sustainable Economic Growth
 - b. Meeting Strategic Housing Needs
 - c. Investing in Infrastructure
 - d. Managing Environmental Assets and Natural Resources
- 3.2 These objectives are largely the same as in the original LSS. They are considered to be appropriate objectives in line with national policy and the approach set out in the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF).

3.3 The LSS Refresh also identifies nine spatial priorities, where major development and infrastructure investment will be directed. These are:

1. Shoreham Harbour and Brighton Airport
2. Chichester City / Tangmere / Bognor Regis
3. Littlehampton
4. Worthing's Key Town Centre Sites
5. Greater Brighton City Region
6. Brighton – Seafront and Brighton City Centre
7. Burgess Hill
8. Newhaven
9. Rural Sussex

3.4 The spatial priority of relevance to Horsham District is the Rural Sussex spatial priority, which states:

“The local authorities and the South Downs National Park Authority will work together with partners to ensure that the rural parts of the sub-region benefit from long term sustainable growth through:

- Supporting delivery of affordable housing;
- Improving connectivity between the priority sectors of the rural economy, including tourism, leisure, agriculture and horticulture;
- Identifying priority infrastructure needs to support rural businesses, including home-workers, particularly in relation to communications infrastructure which improves accessibility to the main employment centres within the sub-region;
- Facilitating a good supply of small business, retail and community facilities to support the sustainability of rural communities;
- Supporting existing and proposed land management and land based businesses that protect and enhance the landscape character of the countryside;
- Identifying priority infrastructure needs to support rural businesses, including home-workers, particularly in relation to communications and digital infrastructure which improves accessibility markets and customers.
- Safeguarding mineral sites and areas with potentially economically viable minerals from alternative forms of development to ensure a steady supply of minerals for use in construction and industrial purposes
- Improving access to the South Downs National Park particularly by sustainable modes of transport from key gateway locations”.

3.5 This spatial priority is consistent with strategic and rural policies in the HDPF. Its inclusion will demonstrate that the local authorities are working cooperatively on these matters and will support bids for grant funding to support investment in the rural area, including rural villages and settlements in the south part of the district.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Once endorsed the refreshed Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement 2015-2031 will support the Council's strategy for development and the policies within the HDPF. It will also help to demonstrate that the Council has met its duty to cooperate in the production of the District Plan and intends to continue good partnership working on strategic planning issues into the future. The statement reflects an interim position and a report setting out options for a full

review to take account of the next round of Local Plans will be considered by the Strategic Planning Board in April.

5 Outcome of Consultations

- 5.1 The preparation of the updated LSS has been steered by the Strategic Planning Board, which comprises lead Councillors from each of the LPAs which works in an advisory capacity with all decision-making through the individual member authorities.
- 5.2 No formal consultation has been undertaken in preparing the updated LSS. Inputs have been provided mainly by officers from the CWS&GB local authorities. A stakeholder workshop was held in November 2015, which was attended by planning and economic development portfolio holders, council officers and representatives from other key strategic organisations.
- 5.3 The Monitoring Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted during the preparation of the updated LSS.

6 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected

- 6.1 An alternative would be not to endorse the LSS but this would make it difficult to make joint funding bids to deliver the priorities identified and may adversely affect the ability to demonstrate how the Duty to Cooperate has been fulfilled.

7 Financial Consequences

- 7.1 The costs to the council associated with updating the Statement and the Memorandum have been funded from existing revenue budget, as will any future review to assist with future plan reviews. Where technical studies are required the costs are split equally between Board members.
- 7.2 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 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.

8 Legal Consequences

- 8.1 The work to develop the LSS and its ongoing use to inform strategic will help the Council to demonstrate that it has met the legal 'Duty to Cooperate' as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

9 Staffing Consequences

- 9.1 There are no establishment staffing consequences resulting from this decision.

10 Risk Assessment

- 10.1 There are no risks associated with this proposal.

Appendix 1

Consequences of the Proposed Action

How will the proposal help to reduce Crime and Disorder?	There are no crime and disorder implications as a result of this report.
How will the proposal help to promote Human Rights?	None directly but each of the priorities and associated projects would be considered on a case by case basis.
What is the impact of the proposal on Equality and Diversity?	None directly but each of the priorities and associated projects would be considered on a case by case basis.
How will the proposal help to promote Sustainability?	The updated LSS is informed by the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) which seeks to ensure that development which takes place in the future meets the needs of current and future residents and those working in the District.