

Subject:	Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement for Delivering Sustainable Growth 2013 – 2031		
Date of Meeting:	23rd January 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director for Environment, Housing and Development		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton (CWS&GB) Local Strategic Statement (LSS) will be an important mechanism for local planning authorities on the Sussex Coast to identify and deliver priorities for Strategic Planning. A copy of the LSS is included as an appendix. The LSS will assist in managing strategic issues and is important evidence to demonstrate that strategic co-operation has 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. 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That:

The Committee approve the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement including the terms of reference and memorandum of understanding.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In October 2012 the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Coastal West Sussex (Adur District, Arun District, Chichester District, Worthing Borough 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. This would allow, amongst other things, the duty to co-operate required under planning legislation to be discharged. The Board, which comprises lead councillors from each of the LPAs works in an advisory capacity

with all decision-making through the individual member authorities. The Coastal West Sussex approach has been highlighted nationally as an example of best practice with regarding to meeting the duty to co-operate.

- 3.2 This LSS is the document for taking forward the Board's work on behalf of the LPAs. The LSS sets 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 LSS focuses on the strategic issues that are shared 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.
- 3.3 Managing strategic issues which impact on more than one local planning area has always been part of the plan preparation process. The 2011 Localism Act laid down the foundations for a new way of delivering strategic planning, the duty to co-operate. This LSS will be an important mechanism for LPAs in CWS&GB to manage strategic issues and will provide evidence to demonstrate that strategic cooperation has been an integral part of plan-making across the area and that this is being managed on an on-going basis.
- 3.4 The strategic objectives of the LSS aim to facilitate improved accessibility within and across the CWS&GB labour and housing markets, promote strategic development opportunities in town centres and other sustainable locations, and protect the high quality environmental and landscape assets of the area.
The strategic objectives are:-
 - Delivering Sustainable Economic Growth
 - Meeting Strategic Housing Needs
 - Investing in Infrastructure
 - Managing Environmental Assets and Natural Resources
- 3.5 LPAs will work with their 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 LSS identifies 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
- 3.6 The LSS also aims to ensure alignment with the work of the Greater Brighton Economic Board, the delivery of the Greater Brighton City Deal, and the delivery of the emerging priorities in the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership's draft Strategic Economic Plan.
- 3.7 The LSS also contains as annexes the terms of reference for the CWS&GB Strategic Planning Board and a memorandum of understanding that establishes a framework for co-operation between the eight LPAs with respect to strategic planning and development issues.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Adjoining planning authorities and utility companies have been consulted on the LSS and their comments, where appropriate, have been included.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The costs associated with the production of the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement have been met from the existing Planning Strategy revenue budget. The main input from the City Council is Member and Officer time. There is occasionally some requirement for technical studies, costs of which are split equally between the Board members.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford Date: 05/12/13

5.2 Legal Implications:

As stated in the body of the report the Localism Act 2011 (section 110) introduced a “duty to co-operate” in relation to “strategic matters” .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 duty involves engaging “constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis” and “considering whether to consult on and prepare, and enter into and publish, agreements on joint approaches”

The Local Strategic Statement accords with this duty.

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

Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Woodward Date: 9/12/13

5.3 Equalities Implications:

The aim of the LSS is to bring forward strategic housing and employment sites and thereby provide homes and jobs.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

A Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out on the LSS

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None arising directly from the report

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

None arising directly from the report

5.7 Public Health Implications:

None arising directly from the report.

5.8 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Approval of the LSS will assist in meeting the duty to co-operate which is required under national planning legislation

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 One option is not to produce a LSS and another is to not formally approve the LSS.

6.2 Neither of these options would assist the City Council and its partner authorities in discharging their duty to co-operate or enable the proper strategic planning of this part of the Sussex Coast.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The LSS will be an important mechanism for LPAs in CWS&GB to manage strategic issues and will provide evidence to demonstrate that strategic cooperation has been an integral part of plan-making across the area and that this is being managed on an on-going basis. The recommendation is that the Committee approve the LSS (and terms of reference/memorandum of understanding) on this basis.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement for Delivering Sustainable Growth 2013 – 2031 (including terms of reference and memorandum of understanding)

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None