

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Adur Local Plan Update

November 2024



**ADUR DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

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1. Introduction

1.1. The Local Plan

- 1.1.1. The Adur Local Plan was adopted in 2017 and covered those parts of Adur District which lie outside of the South Downs National Park. It aimed to provide a strategy for development in Adur up to 2032 through the allocation of sites for development to deliver 3,718 homes and a minimum of 41,000 square metres for appropriate employment generating uses. It also sought to protect areas of Local Green Gaps and areas of countryside outside of the Built Up Area Boundary.
- 1.1.2. The Adur Local Plan 2017 contains a commitment to undertake a review in order to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community. Since the publication of the Adur Local Plan 2017, the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in 2019, with further revisions made in July 2021 and December 2023. Paragraph 33 requires that ‘Policies in Local Plans... should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary.’ This is reflected in Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.1.3. Since adoption of the Adur Local Plan, the Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan was adopted in 2019 which covers development within the regeneration area building upon Policy 8 of the Adur Local Plan.
- 1.1.4. A [report](#) was taken to the Adur Planning Committee on 6th September 2021 considering the need to update the Adur Local Plan 2017. The report recognises that Adur is located in a heavily constrained area, with tightly drawn boundaries, located between the coast and the South Downs National Park. An initial review of policies within the Adur Local Plan 2017 using the Planning Advisory Service Toolkit has indicated that:
- An updated strategy will be required, to set out how the Plan seeks to meet needs (as far as possible) in terms of housing delivery and employment floorspace.
 - Widening the range of strategic policies to include strategic sustainability, climate change, ecological matters, and health.
 - Taking account of recent changes to the permitted development regime and Use Classes Order and its implications.
 - An opportunity to address how planning policy can assist and support the future of Adur’s town centres.

1.1.5. Given the above, the report recommends that an update of the Adur Local Plan is carried out. Progress made on the review has been limited due to resources and uncertainty around proposed changes to the planning system, however, the Local Plan is now being progressed at pace.

1.2. What the Local Plan can/cannot do

1.2.1. The Local Plan will provide a strategy for development. It seeks to achieve a balance in meeting competing needs for development and will help facilitate regeneration. It allocates key sites for developments and sets policies to address planning issues. Its overall aim should be to meet as much of an area's identified housing need as possible.

1.2.2. In particular Paragraph 11 b) of the NPPF states:
'strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, unless... ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.'

1.2.3. The Adur Local Plan has to reflect and put into practice a large number of national, regional and local strategies, plans and guidance. At the national level the Local Plan must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out the government's priorities for planning in England. Some of the policies in the Local Plan will rely on actions by other parties, so it is important that they are engaged in the process early and agreement reached on who does what. Adur District Council is therefore liaising with relevant bodies that prepare strategies affecting the Local Plan Area's future, including health, transport, housing, employment and the environment. This is to ensure that plans and policies are as closely aligned as possible and that strategies support each other. The Local Plan will also be supportive of the Council's current and emerging priorities and strategies set out in related documents.

1.2.4. The Local Strategic Statement 2 has been produced by the Coastal West Sussex authorities together with Brighton & Hove City Council to provide the sub regional context for delivering sustainable growth for the period 2015 - 2031. In the meantime, duty to cooperate discussions continue between authorities in the course of plan preparation and between authorities within the defined housing market areas within the wider partnership.

1.2.5. The new Local Plan will not cover the land in the north of the District that lies within the South Downs National Park. The National Park Authority is a

planning authority in their own right and they are producing their own Local Plan which will set planning policy for all areas within the South Downs National Park boundary. In addition West Sussex County Council is responsible for preparing statutory land use plans for minerals and waste. Adopted sites have been identified and safeguarded in the West Sussex Minerals and Waste Local Plans. In line with the requirements of the duty to co-operate, Adur District Council will work with partners and local authorities to consider a range of cross boundary issues.

2. Sustainability Appraisal

2.1. Purpose

- 2.1.1. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an iterative process that is undertaken alongside and intended to inform preparation of the Local Plan. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) explains that its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 2.1.2. The process is an opportunity to consider options by which the Local Plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have. Paragraph 32 of the NPPF explains that SA should:
- '... demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).'*

2.2. Legal Requirements

- 2.2.1. Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to carry out a SA of the proposals in a plan during its preparation. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' or 'SEA' Regulations) require a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of any plan or programme that sets the framework for

future development consent of projects and is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

- 2.2.2. The SEA Regulations set the requirement to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan and reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.
- 2.2.3. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act includes provisions for a new form of environmental assessment known as Environmental Outcome Reports. The intention is that Environmental Outcome Reports will replace the existing system of SA, SEA and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and make the process simpler, using more consistent data and focussed on measuring environmental effects against improving environmental outcomes.
- 2.2.4. Paragraph 32 of the NPPF requires SA to meet all of the requirements of the SEA Regulations, so a separate SEA should not be required. It ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues. Therefore for ease of reference, this document will refer to both processes as a SA.

2.3. Process

- 2.3.1. The key stages of local plan preparation and their relationship with the SA process set out in the PPG (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 11-013-20140306). This details how the process of SA should be undertaken in relation to the Local Plan and details the following five stages that should be completed:
- 2.3.2. Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.
 - 1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives
 - 2. Collect baseline information
 - 3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
 - 4. Develop the SA framework
 - 5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the SAI reportThis should be integrated with the evidence gathering and engagement stage of local plan preparation. A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the SA process is proportionate and relevant to the plan being assessed.
- 2.3.3. Stage B - Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.
 - 1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework

- 2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
- 3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
- 4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- 5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.

This should be integrated with developing and consulting on the draft Local Plan.

- 2.3.4. Stage C – Preparing the SA report. This should be integrated with preparing the publication version of the Local Plan. The SA report must include the information referred to in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations which is:
- a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes (met through Stage A)
 - b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme (met through Stage A)
 - c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significant affected (met through Stage A)
 - d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance (met through Stage A)
 - e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation (met through Stage A and B)
 - f) The likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. (met through Stage B)
 - g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme (met through Stage B)
 - h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information (met through Stage B)
 - i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17. (met through Stage B)
 - j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

- 2.3.5. The SA process also includes
- Stage D – Seeking representations on the SA report which should also meet the requirements of Regulation 13 of the SEA Regulations; and
 - Stage E – Post adoption reporting which should meet the requirements of Regulation 16 and monitoring which should meet the requirements of Regulation 17 of the SEA Regulations.

2.4. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 2.4.1. The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to promote sustainable development, health and equality issues through better integration of social, environmental and economic considerations.
- 2.4.2. Therefore the SA will integrate the requirements and scope of Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The SA will not integrate a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) but it will take account of the findings of an appropriate assessment, if one is undertaken.

2.5. Integrating Health Impact Assessment

- 2.5.1. There is no statutory requirement for a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and therefore there is no standard methodology to inform the HIA process. However, this is a recognised process for considering the health impacts of Local Plans and is widely seen as best practice.
- 2.5.2. An HIA is a process that identifies the health and wellbeing impacts (benefits and harms) of any plan or development project. A properly conducted HIA recommends measures to maximise positive impacts; minimise negative impacts; and reduce health inequalities. HIAs puts people and their health at the heart of the planning process. An HIA supports the planning system to address local health and wellbeing needs and tackle inequalities through influencing the wider determinants of health. The PPG states that a HIA may be a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts.
- 2.5.3. HIA is commonly defined as a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.
- 2.5.4. HIA will therefore be incorporated within the SA through consideration of health as a topic and the inclusion of a health related objective.

2.6. Integrating Equalities Impact Assessment

- 2.6.1. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not a statutory requirement but it is a tool that assists Councils to comply with the requirements under the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.6.2. The Act includes a public sector equality duty which aims to ensure that everyone has a fair chance in life. It contains a requirement for Local Authorities to consider the diverse needs and requirements of the communities in the borough when planning its services.
- 2.6.3. Local Authorities also have a duty under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act, 2000, Disability Discrimination Act, 2005 and the Equality Act, 2006 (Gender Equality) to positively promote race, disability and gender equality.
- 2.6.4. Adur and Worthing Councils use EqIA, where appropriate, in order to improve the work of the Councils. The purpose of the EqIA is to improve the work of the Councils by making sure it does not discriminate and that, where possible, it promotes equality.
- 2.6.5. It is a way of considering the likely effects of policies and decisions on different groups living and working in Adur that are protected from discrimination by the Equality Act. The Equality Act protects people from discrimination on the basis of certain characteristics. These are known as protected characteristics of which there are nine: · age · disability · gender reassignment · marriage and civil partnership · pregnancy and maternity · race · religion or belief · sex · sexual orientation
- 2.6.6. Under the equality duty, public authorities are not required to follow any specific methodology or template to undertake EqIA but they need to be able to show that they have had due regard to the aims set out in the general equality duty. It is generally agreed that an EqIA should start at the earliest opportunity prior to policy development and is an ongoing and cyclical exercise enabling equality considerations to be taken into account before a decision is made.
- 2.6.7. It is considered that there will be similarities in assessment between the EqIA and the HIA in terms of 'health' and 'equalities' being characteristics that affect people i.e. the local population.
- 2.6.8. EqIA will therefore be incorporated within the SA through consideration across a number of the SA objectives. This will be made explicit both in the framework and through the appraisal process.

2.7. Progress

- 2.7.1. A SA Scoping Report was prepared and consultation undertaken with the consultation bodies along with West Sussex County Council and Active Travel England from Tuesday 7 June 2022 to Wednesday 13 July 2022. However, since 2022 there have been significant changes at the national and local level.
- 2.7.2. Key changes include the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 which brings a range of changes to the planning system including replacing the environmental assessment regime, changes to the Development Plan system and the introduction of National Development Management Policies. Many of these are still being enacted. In addition 2023 saw changes to the NPPF and Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory from February 2024 through Regulations under the Environment Act.
- 2.7.3. Perhaps more significantly in 2024 there was a change in UK government and Labour came into power with a focus on planning reforms. Locally there has also been a change in Council leadership and new priorities agreed. A Written Ministerial Statement 'Building the homes we need' (July 2024) focused on reforms to the housing and planning system to build 1.5 million homes; and the Kings Speech (17 July 2024) announced a Planning and Infrastructure Bill. A review of the Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) has also been announced and consultation is underway on proposed reforms to the NPPF and other changes to the planning system.
- 2.7.4. These changes combined with very little process being made on the Local Plan has meant it is reasonable to restart the SA process. Therefore this report is a new updated Scoping Report to meet the requirements of Stage A. It identifies the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.

3. Context

3.1. Introduction

- 3.1.1. The first step of Stage A in the SA process requires the identification of other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives. The Local Plan will not be a document developed in isolation. Its content will be

influenced by a large number of factors including UK legislation, national policies and other plans and strategies at a local level. Understanding the relationship between the Local Plan and these policies is important as it will influence the options considered in preparation of the plan.

3.2. Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 3.2.1. Table 1 below sets out the relevant plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) that are likely to influence the Local Plan arranged by topic. The topics include those listed in the SEA regulations as well as social (incorporating health and equalities) and economic issues. New PPPs will emerge during preparation of the Adur Local Plan and the table will be updated in future reports to reflect consideration of these.
- 3.2.2. The NPPF and PPG are key documents relevant to the Local Plan as there is a requirement for the Local Plan to be in general conformity with these. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. The NPPF was last updated December 2023 and proposed reforms to the NPPF are currently being consulted on. However for the purposes of this document the published 2023 version will be considered.
- 3.2.3. At a high level the NPPF sets the achievement of sustainable development as the main purpose of the planning system, and at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan making this sets the expectation that all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to:
- meet the development needs of their area;
 - align growth and infrastructure;
 - improve the environment;
 - mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.
- 3.2.4. The NPPF also recognises the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.
- 3.2.5. The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) set out the government's vision for a quarter-of-a-century of action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan

setting out how government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help to restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of the country.

3.2.6. Locally the missions included in Adur & Worthing Councils 'Our Plan' will be significant in understanding the context, key issues and priorities for the Local Plan. It will also be important to consider the proposals within the Local Plans of adjacent authorities including Brighton & Hove City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and the Worthing Local Plan (2023) to ensure cross boundary issues are effectively identified and considered.

Table 1: Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Document	Key messages
Air	
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	<p>The Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) lists clean air as goal 2. It recognises that although air quality in the UK has improved significantly, it continues to be the biggest environmental risk to human health. It commits the UK to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By the end of 2040, we will achieve a maximum Annual Mean Concentration Target (AMCT) of 10 micrograms of PM2.5 or below per cubic metre (µg/m³). ● By the end of 2040, we will reduce population exposure to PM2.5 by 35% compared to 2018 levels.
Air Quality Strategy (2023)	Sets a framework to enable local authorities to deliver for their communities and contribute to long-term air quality goals. It includes boosting active travel and public transport to improve air quality as one of its 6 priorities.
Transport Decarbonisation Plan (2021)	<p>Supports the move away from petrol and diesel cars. The most relevant actions for the Local Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting the acceleration of the rollout of a world class charging infrastructure network ● Investing in active travel with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities will be walked or cycled by 2030
Cycling and walking plan for England (2020)	Sets a vision for walking and cycling and aims to make sustainable travel, including cycling and walking, the first choice for journeys.

Clean Air Strategy (2019)	Sets actions to improve air quality.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Paragraph 192 requires planning policies and decisions to sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.
Breathing Better: A Partnership Approach to Improving Air Quality in West Sussex (September 2023 Update)	Joint air quality action plan that was published in 2019 by the West Sussex County Council and its district and borough partners. It summarises the partnership's approach to improving air quality in West Sussex.
West Sussex Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030	Includes improving air quality as a target
West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036 (2022)	Sets out how key challenges including improving, maintaining and managing the transport network will be addressed in the period up to 2036. Objective 4: seeks to avoid where possible and minimise air, noise and light pollution from use of the transport network to minimise impacts on public health and well-being.
West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016 -2026	Sets out the aims and objectives for walking and cycling in West Sussex. Outlines the Council's plans to increase levels of walking and cycling to help tackle poor air quality, which can cause or exacerbate respiratory diseases such as asthma, and tackle health problems linked with sedentary living. The document also outlined its work on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (2020).
West Sussex Healthy & Sustainable Places - A Public Health	Provides guidance on how to consider health and wellbeing when planning and developing places. This includes a section on air quality

and Sustainability Framework (2020)	
West Sussex Electric Vehicle Strategy 2019-2030	Sets out a vision that will enable residents, when travelling in a car or small van, to choose ultra low emission vehicles and travel in a carbon neutral way.
Adur & Worthing Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (2020)	Hopes to create a place where walking and cycling becomes the preferred way of moving around Adur through better safety, better mobility and better streets.
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	Includes a mission 'Thriving place' where active travel is easy, with opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	The Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) has a goal to achieve a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife which is underpinned by targets including halting species decline by 2030 and increasing tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires planning policies and decisions to protect and enhance biodiversity and provide net gains.
People And Nature Network: Green Infrastructure in the South Downs and wider South East (2020)	Formally called the Green Infrastructure Framework, the People And Nature Network (PANN), will help the South Downs National Park Authority and its partners ensure nature is able to function effectively so that all action is coordinated and contributes to a strategic approach. This document called the People and Nature Network (PANN) sets out how a wide range of partners can work together to plan positively for nature and natural services within and surrounding the protected landscapes of the southeast. It identifies Adur as part of the coastal communities and Adur Blue-Green Corridor Natural Capital Investment Areas.
Sussex Local Natural Capital Investment Strategy (2019)	Intends to open up new opportunities for investment in nature.

South Inshore and South Offshore Marine Plan (2018)	The South Marine Plan will help ensure that the right activities happen in the right place and in the right way within the marine environment. It provides a framework that will shape and inform decisions over how the areas' waters are developed, protected and improved over the next 20 years.
The Living Coast Biosphere Management Strategy 2020-2025	This strategic plan is produced by The Living Coast's Board and partnership to guide its work, identify priorities and to provide a context for partners and stakeholders to deliver programmes and projects in support of the sustainable development of The Living Coast.
Adur River Recovery Project	As one of the 22 national Landscape Recovery pilots part of the Environmental Land Management Scheme, 27 farmers and land managers will explore ways to revive floodplains, increase biodiversity and improve water quality. Interventions such as re-meandering, re-naturalisation of floodplains, removal of barriers and embankments, new habitat creation, and improvement of soil health through regenerative farming techniques. The work will connect significant sites of nature recovery in the catchment and create a new ribbon of habitats running through a wildlife-friendly farmed landscape.
Sussex Bay	Adur & Worthing Councils are the hosts and incubators for the Sussex Bay initiative which extends across the whole Sussex coastline. Sussex Bay is a generational vision for integrated seascape restoration across Sussex intertidal rivers, coast and sea - 'the blue mirror to the South Downs'.
West Sussex Healthy & Sustainable Places - A Public Health and Sustainability Framework (2020)	Provides guidance on how to consider health and wellbeing when planning and developing places. This includes a section on biodiversity
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	A key Council priority is to provide better spaces for wildlife and an ambition in the Council's Strategy 'Our Plan' is to achieve a thriving environment through increased biodiversity by restoring natural habitats.
Climatic Factors - adaptation	
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022)	Considers risks and opportunities for the UK under two climate change scenarios, corresponding to approximately a 2°C or a 4°C rise in global temperature by 2100. It identified six key areas of inter-related risks resulting from climate change:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure. ● Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures. ● Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry. ● Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity. ● Risks to domestic and international food production and trade. ● New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023</p>	<p>Sets adapting to climate change as a core planning environmental objective. It expects the planning system to take full account of flood risk and coastal change to help minimise vulnerability and improve resilience to the challenge of climate change. It requires Local Plans to take a proactive approach in adapting to climate change and requires planning policies to support measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.</p>
<p>Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)</p>	<p>Goal 7 is mitigating and adapting to climate change. It recognises that due to climate change, we will see more intense and changeable weather and coastal erosion; an increase in risks from pests, pathogens and invasive nonnative species; and knock-on impacts to our ecosystems, habitats, species and agricultural, forestry and marine productivity. This means that we must go further to build the climate resilience of our ecosystems.</p> <p>Goal 8 is to reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy from natural hazards including flooding, drought, and coastal erosion and includes priorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk; ● reduce impacts of droughts so that water companies can maintain supply in all except the most extreme droughts;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect against wildfires, working with a range of bodies to reduce incidents of wildfires and manage them when they do occur; • following the joint hottest summer on record in the UK, reduce the risks from heat taking coordinated action across sectors to reduce exposure to high temperatures.
Third National Adaptation Programme (2023)	Sets the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK. for 2023 - 2028. It identifies 61 risks and opportunities relating to infrastructure, natural environment, health, communities & the built environment, business & industry and international dimensions.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2020)	<p>This and its associated Roadmap to 2026 (2022) provides the overarching framework for future action by all risk management authorities to tackle flooding and coastal erosion in England. It sets a vision for a nation ready for, and resilient to flooding and coastal change - today. Tomorrow and to the year 2100. It has 3 long term ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate resilient places: working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change • today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate: making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change • a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change: ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change, and know their responsibilities and how to take action
South East River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (2022)	Provides information on the aims and actions needed to manage the risk. The FRMP draws on previous policies and actions identified in the Catchment Flood Management Plans and also incorporates information from Local Flood Risk Management Strategies. The Adur Local Plan area is within the Adur and Ouse Management Catchment Area. The FRMP summarises the flooding affecting the area and describes the measures to be taken to address the risk in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations.
Rivers Arun to Adur Flood and Erosion Management Strategy	Covers the Local Plan areas between Ferring (in Worthing) and the Shoreham Port lock gates. The strategy details the planned works and management approaches that will be used to achieve the 'Hold the Line' strategy at Goring, Worthing, Brooklands and Shoreham by Sea. The

2010-2020	Environment Agency has now begun to implement the recommended options.
Brighton Marina to River Adur Strategy Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2014)	Includes coastline managed by Adur District within Shoreham Lock and east of the mouth of the River Adur to the boundary with Brighton & Hove City Council. The strategy details proposals to increase the standard of flood protection in the Adur District Council area by improving existing defences, including information on the planned management options and the associated costs. The initial phase of improvements began in 2020.
Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan (2006)	Covers the length of the coastline in the Adur and Worthing Local Plan areas, and sets out to define flood risk in this area, identify policies which can be utilised to best manage these risks, and use these policies to inform future development across the coastline. The preferred policy selected for the entirety of the Beachy Head to Selsey Bill area is to 'Hold the Line'.
River Adur Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)	The primary policy units for the Local Plan area are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Policy 3 – Worthing / Brighton and Hove. Areas of low to moderate flood risk where existing risk is generally being managed effectively · Policy 4 – Shoreham and Adur Estuary. Areas low, moderate or high flood risk where existing risk is generally being managed effectively but further actions may be needed due to climate change · Policy 6 – Adur Valley / Adur South Downs West / Adur South Downs East. Areas of low to moderate flood risk where other people and groups will be worked with to manage landscapes in locations that provide overall flood risk reductions or environmental benefits
West Sussex Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030 (2020)	Sets a commitment to adapt and be resilient to a changing climate. It recognises that alongside the general risks of increased summer temperatures, more likely drought increased storms that in Adur there are particularly significant impacts from sea level rise.
West Sussex Climate Action and Adaptation Plan: Our priorities for 2024-2027	Represents the initial roadmap to 2030 to deliver the climate change strategy. Sets out 20 priority actions broken down into 6 pathways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources and influence Buildings and energy Transport Procurement and commissioning Nature and environment Communities

	Priority actions include developing detailed climate adaptation actions.
West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)	The Strategy sets out how West Sussex County Council will manage local flood risk i.e. from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, for which they have a responsibility as LLFA and the work that other Risk Management Authorities are doing to manage flood risk in the County. This is currently being updated.
West Sussex Healthy & Sustainable Places - A Public Health and Sustainability Framework (2020)	Provides guidance on how to consider health and wellbeing when planning and developing places. This includes a section on climate change.
Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2070 (2019)	Sets out how Southern Water intend to supply healthy, reliable drinking water to more than one million homes and businesses for the next 50 years. Aims to reduce personal water use to an average of 100 litres per person per day by 2040.
Adur & Ouse Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2019)	Sets the approach to managing new and existing abstraction and impoundment within the Adur and Ouse catchment in the South East river basin district
Lancing Surface Water Management Plan (2015)	The plan identifies locations at risk of flooding in Lancing, summarising the causes and impacts associated with flood events. The plan then outlines potential actions and measures for managing the identified flood risks at several locations in Lancing, detailing the costs and benefits of different potential options. The actions identified include short-term approaches and 'quick wins', as well as longer term approaches requiring monitoring and maintenance.
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	Includes a mission to achieve a thriving environment through resilience to climate change.
Climatic Factors - mitigation	
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Highlights the important role planning can have in mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from new developments and increasing the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy. It requires that planning "contribute to a radical reduction in greenhouse gas emissions" and "take a proactive approach to mitigating... climate change... In line with the objectives and Provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008" (2019 update). It defines

	mitigation as “action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions”
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	Goal 7: mitigating and adapting to climate change aims to take all possible action to mitigate climate change and sets out land use considerations for net zero alongside nature, biodiversity and climate adaptation goals recognising that nature-based Solutions are crucial to helping to meet our climate ambitions.
The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	Includes policies and proposals to accelerate the pace of clean growth i.e. increased economic growth and decreased emissions.
West Sussex Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030 (2020)	Commits to achieving carbon neutral by 2030.
West Sussex Climate Action and Adaptation Plan: Our priorities for 2024-2027	Represents the initial roadmap to 2030 to deliver the climate change strategy. Sets out 20 priority actions broken down into 6 pathways: Resources and influence Buildings and energy Transport Procurement and commissioning Nature and environment Communities Priority actions include developing a carbon offsetting plan and supporting the community net zero transition
West Sussex Energy Strategy (2024)	Sets out how the County Council will take action on climate change and achieve net zero operation through its energy programme. It also addresses support for residents and businesses to move to clean energy and tackle issues such as fuel poverty and reducing energy bills. The strategy focuses on the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainable energy - decarbonising local energy by improving the generation and distribution of energy from sustainable sources. ● Emissions reduction - reducing our emissions and working with other organisations and sectors to support them to achieve their emission reduction targets. ● Social benefit - ensuring that our energy projects deliver wider, societal benefits for our communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local energy resilience - delivering projects that help to ensure that our local energy supply is robust and secure.
South East Local Enterprise Partnership Report: Energy South2East: Towards a Low Carbon Economy - Local Energy Strategy (2019)	Sets down a clear vision for energy provision in the South East, providing a clear analysis of the energy opportunities and challenges across the Tri-LEP area for power, heat and transport.
Adur & Worthing Councils Carbon Management Plan (2024)	Shows that the Councils have reduced their carbon emissions by 16.6% since 2019 and recommends that efforts to sustain progress already made around the decommissioning of gas boilers, decarbonisation of fleet vehicles and deployment of solar PV should be prioritised as well as offsetting measures through the production of additional renewable electricity generation to ensure the Councils are able to meet their Carbon Neutral 2030 target.
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	Sets a mission of thriving environment - action now achieves a fair transition to Net Zero Carbon by 2045.
Population and Equalities	
The Integrated Communities Action Plan (2019)	The purpose of this plan is to boost the cohesiveness of communities and build relationships between local government and the public and between different groups of people. A key aim of the strategy was also to increase economic opportunities for people.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	The Local Plan is primarily a framework for meeting housing needs. With an overall aim of overall aim to meet as much of an area's identified housing need as possible. In doing so the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) requires that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and beautiful buildings which promote social interaction, are safe and accessible and enable and support healthy lifestyles. It recognises the importance of proactive and positive joint working to provide and deliver the social recreational and cultural facilities and services that communities need.
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	Sets out the Council's missions of the big ambitions it wants to achieve. These are Thriving People, Thriving Places, Thriving Environment and Thriving Economy. Thriving People

	<p>recognise the importance that everyone has a safe, secure and sustainable home. Thriving Places includes the aim that places are designed for people and nature. They are clean, safe and feel looked after and that people feel a sense of belonging to places and communities. They can influence how places change.</p>
<p>Adur & Worthing Councils Safer Communities 3 Year Strategy 2021 - 2024</p>	<p>The strategy focuses on six key strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing the harm caused by serious organised crime and acquisitive crime 2. Increasing the safety for vulnerable adults and children 3. Improving pathways out of offending and reoffending 4. Increase community cohesion and reduce ASB and hate crime 5. Reduce public place violent crime with a focus on youth safety 6. Tackle social inequality and the drivers of crime <p>Priorities 4 and 6 are most relevant to the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Adur & Worthing Equalities Policy (June 2023 Update)</p>	<p>Recognises that compliance with the General Equality Duty is not only a legal obligation, but the right thing to do for our residents and that it makes good business sense. As Councils, we are clear that our role is to enable individuals and communities to flourish and prosper.</p>
<p>Adur & Worthing Housing Strategy 2020-2023 (2020)</p>	<p>This has been extended until the end of 2024. An updated Strategy for the period 2025 - 2030 is currently being prepared. The current Strategy sets out how the Council can support, enable and sometimes enforce the right conditions for people to have a secure and safe home, not just a place to sleep, and to thrive in their community. The Strategy sets three key priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing related wellbeing and support to identify those who are at risk of homelessness 2. Better homes; Stronger communities to improve standards in the private rented sector and help those with mobility problems or poor health to remain in their own homes as long as possible 3. Improving the levels of affordable housing supply to increase access to housing for people of all ages
<p>Adur & Worthing Community Homelessness Strategy 2017 to 2022</p>	<p>Sets the intention to identify as early as possible, individuals and families at risk of homelessness and put in place appropriate intervention to help them sustain or secure suitable accommodation. This strategy aims to build on the multi-agency and partnership work already in place and also where possible, to mitigate the effects of welfare reform and its impact on homeless households.</p>

South Downs National Park Local Plan (2019)	This is a landscape led Local Plan with a spatial strategy of dispersing a 'medium' level of growth throughout communities within the National Park. The National Park Authority is currently undertaking a review of the Plan
Brighton Hove City Council Local Plan	Consists of the City Plan Part One (2016) and Part Two (2022). The City Plan Part One Policy CP1 Housing Delivery sets out the city's housing target of 13,200 new homes over the Plan period to 2030 and states that additional sites will be allocated in Part 2 of the Plan to help ensure housing delivery is maintained over the plan period.
Worthing Local Plan (2023)	Provides a strategy for sustainable development and change in Worthing up to 2036 with delivery of a minimum of 3,672 dwellings and 24,000 sqm of employment and 9,200 sqm of commercial floorspace.
Human Health	
Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020)	Identified inequalities in life expectancy have risen in England in the last decade especially in deprived areas. Rising child poverty, a housing affordability crisis, a rise in homelessness and inequities in money and resources are all contributing to health inequalities. This is particularly so in urban coastal communities.
Public Health England Strategy 2020 - 2025	This strategy outlines the foremost priorities which PHE will focus on for the next five years to both protect people and help people to live longer in good health.
Active Design (2023)	Sets out how the design of our environments can help people to lead more physically active and healthy lives - it's about helping to create 'active' environments
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires planning policies and decisions to enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs. It also recognises the importance of high quality open spaces for the health and wellbeing of communities.
Sussex Health & Care Strategy 'Improving Lives Together' (2022)	Building on the Health and Wellbeing Strategies in place across Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex that focus on the priorities across our local populations.
West Sussex Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2019 - 2024	Sets out that the environment in which people are born, grow, live and work and their age has a profound effect on the quality of their health and well-being. Many of the strongest predictors of health and well-being, such as social, economic and environmental factors, fall outside the healthcare setting. These wider determinants of health have a significant impact

	on people's health and well-being. The poorest and most deprived are more likely to be in poor health, have lower life expectancy and likely to have a long-term health condition or disability.
West Sussex Healthy & Sustainable Places - A Public Health and Sustainability Framework (2020)	Provides guidance on how to consider health and wellbeing when planning and developing places.
Healthy AW 2021 - 2024 Adur & Worthing Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Provides a framework for using the powers and influence the Councils have, to bring about positive change and enable our communities to thrive and prosper, be healthier and more resilient. We want to see the golden thread of health and wellbeing running through all that we do and that we use this to influence our levers of change - in planning, in our green spaces and in our decisions.
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	Sets out the Council's missions of the big ambitions it wants to achieve. The mission 'Thriving People' includes as a priority that people are healthy, resilient and resourceful; they can access the right help when they need it.
Economy and Employment	
Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021)	Sets out the government's plans to support economic growth through significant investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation.
Build Back Better High Streets (2021)	Sets out the government's long-term plan to support the evolution of high streets into thriving places to work, visit and live.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires that planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. In addition planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation.
Tourism Recovery Plan (2023)	Sets out the role that the UK government will play in assisting and accelerating the tourism sector's recovery from COVID-19.
Coastal West Sussex and	This sets out the long term Strategic Objectives and the Spatial Priorities for delivering these in the short to medium

Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement - Delivering Sustainable Growth 2015-31	term. They reflect the local planning authorities' clear aspirations for long term sustainable growth to meet the existing and future needs of the residents and workforce in the area.
Gatwick 360° The Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan (2018)	Identified eight economic priorities Priority 1 - Deliver Prosperous Urban Centres Priority 2 - Develop Business Infrastructure and Support Priority 3 - Invest in Sustainable Growth Priority 4 - Create Skills for The Future Priority 5 - Pioneer Innovation in Core Strengths Priority 6 - Promote Better Transport and Mobility Priority 7 - Improve Digital Network Capability Priority 8 - Build a Strong National and International Identity
Adur and Worthing Growth Deal (2017)	An ambitious 5-year partnership programme of regeneration focusing on key priorities across the area.
Adur & Worthing Councils: Our Plan (2022)	Includes a mission for a thriving economy through achievement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inclusive economy which provides people with skills and opportunities to secure good quality jobs • Ambitious, high-growth companies locate in Adur and Worthing and smaller independent businesses thrive • Economic growth regenerates places and high streets, helping communities to prosper
Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan (2019)	A joint project to regenerate Shoreham Harbour and surrounding areas into a vibrant waterfront destination comprising mixed use developments alongside a consolidated and enhanced Shoreham Port. The Joint Area Action Plan sets the strategic development and land-use priorities for the Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Area up to 2032, and contains the policies against which development management decisions within that area will be made.
Lancing: now and into the future, Report for our Communities (2023)	This programme was launched in 2022 by Adur District Council and Lancing Parish Council to explore how the village could be made better for the benefit of the whole community. This report tells the story of the project, what was learned and the next steps for action in Lancing.
Cultural Heritage	
The Heritage Statement: One Year On (2018)	The 2018 update to the Heritage Statement details Government's continuing vision and strategy for heritage and the historic environment, whilst providing updates on the

	content of the 2017 edition. This 'One Year On' version provides an update on progress since the 2017 edition, and sets out how new funding and projects will work to better conserve and sustainably utilise heritage assets.
Culture White Paper (2016)	Sets out the government's vision, strategy and proposals for the cultural sectors (the arts, museums and galleries, libraries, archives and heritage). It outlines the key issues facing the cultural sectors today and the role we want culture to play in our society; what the government and our public public bodies will do to address those issues; and how we will ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from culture.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires heritage assets to be conserved and plans to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.
Conservation area character appraisals:	Conservation area character appraisals and management strategies provide an assessment of the character of the conservation area and identify the features which make it special and those which detract from it. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kingston Buci (2022) ● North Lancing (2024) ● Old Shoreham (2022) ● Shoreham-by-Sea (2008) ● Sompting (2024) ● Southlands (2008) ● Southwick (2009)
Landscape	
Vision and Circular on English National Parks and the Broads (2010)	Provides guidance to national park authorities on how to achieve their purposes and duty. The purpose of this circular, which applies only in England, is to provide updated policy guidance on the English National Parks and the Broads ("the Park"). The current Local Plan already meets the requirements of the policy but will be checked as the review Local Plan is produced.
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment. Understands that spending time in nature enjoying our landscapes and coastlines is what makes the United Kingdom such a special place but recognises that to restore nature we need to enjoy its beauty responsibly.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires planning policies and decisions to protect and enhance valued landscapes and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks

Landscape Character Assessment West Sussex (2003)	Identifies 42 unique areas and the production of land management guidelines for each character area.
South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan (2020-2025)	Sets out the overarching five-year strategy for the management of the South Downs National Park. It is a plan that sets out to shape the future of the South Downs National Park.
Soils	
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	Commits to achieving sustainably managed soils by 2030.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires that planning policies and decisions ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and risks arising from land instability and contamination.
Adur Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2024)	Explains how the Council will implement the contaminated land regime, taking account of the latest guidance, experience gained over previous years and the resources available to the Council. At present, no sites within the District of Adur have been determined as 'contaminated land' or as 'special sites'
Water	
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	<p>Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water includes actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tackle nutrient pollution, including by upgrading 160 wastewater treatment works by 2027 and providing increased advice and incentives to support a shift to sustainable agricultural techniques ● restore 400 miles of river through the first round of Landscape Recovery projects and establish 3,000 hectares of new woodlands along England's rivers ● roll out water efficiency labelling across appliances and ensure water companies deliver a 50% reduction in leakages by 2050.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023	Requires planning policies and decisions preventing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution. Development should also help to improve local water quality, and take into account river basin management plans.

<p>Groundwater Protection Position Statements. The Environment Agency's Approach to Groundwater Protection (2018)</p>	<p>These position statements describe the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. They update Groundwater protection: principles and practice (GP3). They are currently being reviewed and updated where applicable to reflect The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2023</p>
<p>South East River Basin Management Plan, updated 2022</p>	<p>River basin management plans (RBMPs) set the legally binding locally specific environmental objectives that underpin water regulation (such as permitting) and planning activities. The South East river basin district (RBD) river basin management plan describes the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.</p>
<p>Adur & Ouse Catchment Management Plan (2019)</p>	<p>The Adur and Ouse Catchment Partnership brings together a range of organisations, groups, agencies and individuals all committed to working together. Our aim is to work together to improve the water environment and surrounding landscape of our catchment for both people and wildlife. We have a shared vision which has been compiled as a management plan to enable us to work towards our objectives which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ensure that freshwater and marine environments are clean, productive and biologically diverse ● enable rivers to function naturally and are able to support a wide range of native species ● meet the challenge to improve water quality and the demand for supply ● promote and deliver natural solutions to flood risk management across the catchment ● ensure community enthusiasm and knowledge is sought as part of decision making processes. Working in partnership enables us to bring together our diverse knowledge and experience to ensure we are achieving the maximum benefits in the most sustainable and cost efficient manner.
<p>Material Assets</p>	
<p>Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020 to 2025</p>	<p>Government's five year strategy for investment in and management of the strategic road network from April 2020 to March 2025. The paper presents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the strategic vision ● the performance specification setting out the expectations for Highways England and the strategic road network ● the investment plan ● a statement of funds

Transport Strategy for the South East (2020)	Sets out Transport for the South East partnership's shared vision for a better connected, more prosperous and more sustainable south east.
Southern Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan	Sets out Southern Water's plans for investment in drainage and wastewater services. This is to ensure the networks of sewers, pumps and wastewater treatment works meet the needs of their customers and protect the environment into the future.
West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-36	<p>Details of the strategy for future investment in the highways and transport infrastructure for 2022-2036. States that its transport strategy for the Adur area is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● improve the performance of the A27; ● facilitate the introduction of on-street electric vehicle charging infrastructure, initially in Shoreham followed by other areas; ● increase space for active travel through infrastructure improvements on priority routes such as A259; ● use traffic signal technology to give priority to shared transport where services operate frequently; ● use on-street parking and traffic management techniques to manage demand; ● deliver Air Quality Action Plans in Shoreham and Southwick; ● tackle inappropriate use of unsuitable routes using behavioural initiatives; and, ● work with strategic partners to deliver faster rail services to Worthing, Chichester, Brighton and the Solent cities in the long term.
West Sussex Joint Minerals Plan (2018, Partial Review 2021)	Joint Minerals Local Plan is the strategy for minerals supply in West Sussex until 2033. West Sussex County Council has worked in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority to produce the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan. It was formally adopted by both authorities in July 2018. Following a Soft Sand Review of the plan, formal revisions were adopted in March 2021.
West Sussex Waste Local Plan 2014	Produced in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority. The plan covers the period to 2031 and is the most up-to-date statement of land use planning policy for waste. The plan provides the basis for making consistent decisions about planning applications for waste management facilities. The aspiration to become a zero waste to landfill county is a key element of the plan. The aim is to ensure that communities, environment and economy of West Sussex are protected. The plan sets out four key areas which will help shape the future of waste management waste in West Sussex:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A vision and strategic objectives for sustainable waste management ● Nine policies to achieve the strategic objectives for the management of different waste types (Policies 1-9) ● 13 development management policies to ensure no unacceptable harm to the environment, economy or communities of West Sussex (Policies 11-23) ● Six site allocations to help us meet the need for new facilities (Policy 10).
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4. **Baseline**

4.1. **Introduction**

- 4.1.1. Step 2 of Stage A of the SA Process requires the collection of baseline information. The term ‘baseline information’ refers to the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area likely to be affected by the plan, and their likely evolution without implementation of new policies. It provides the basis against which to assess the likely effects of alternative proposals in the draft plan. The baseline data will provide a starting point for predicting and monitoring social, economic and environmental effects and identifying sustainability issues within the area.
- 4.1.2. Wherever possible, data has been included on historic and likely future trends, including a ‘business as usual’ scenario (ie anticipated trends in the absence of new policies being introduced). This information will enable the potential effects of the implementation of the plan to be assessed in the context of existing and potential environmental, economic and social trends.
- 4.1.3. The PPG recognises that the SA should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the plan. It should focus on the environmental, economic and social impacts that are likely to be significant. The SEA Regulations also list the environmental topics that should be covered.
- 4.1.4. The 2021 Census provides valuable data at a local authority level. We have also relied on national datasets that allow comparisons across a series of years to identify trends and versions of the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Reports.

4.1.5. A summary of the key facts and figures from the baseline information is included below:

Table 2: Environment baseline

AQMA's have been revoked and mortality due to particulates shows a downward trend suggesting air quality is improving.	There is 1 SSSI, 11 LWS and 4 LNR in the plan area. The SSSI is currently in an unfavourable - declining condition.	In Adur there is 244ha of coastal floodplain grazing marsh, 144ha lowland calcareous grassland, 109ha deciduous woodland and 74a intertidal mudflat.	22.5% of Adur is developed compared to only 9.9% of land in the south east. 53% of Adur District is within the South Downs National Park.
33.3% of developed land is within Flood Zone 3 compared to 6.8% across the south east.	Greenhouse gas emissions in Adur have steadily decreased. The sectors with the highest emissions are transport and domestic.	Adur has a rich historic environment including 118 Listed Buildings, 7 Conservation Areas, and several Scheduled Ancient Monuments	The Local Plan area does not include any Grade 1 Agricultural Land.
Adur is within an area of Serious Water Stress and 98% of water supply is sourced from groundwater.	Bathing water quality is classed as Excellent. The River Adur has moderate ecological potential. Monitoring has shown high levels of potentially harmful bacteria such as Escherichia coli (E.coli).	East Worthing WwTW has had some of the highest incidents of sewer collapses, rising main bursts and internal sewer flooding in the catchment. Combined with Shoreham WwTW there were 96 spills in 2023.	Tree canopy cover is below the national average with variation across Wards from 5.5% in Marine Ward to 18.3% in Southwick Green.

Table 3: Economy baseline

Major roads including the A27, A259 and A270	There are 3 town centres. Shoreham is the largest with	Lancing Business Park is the 2nd largest business	Shoreham Port had 650 commercial vessel
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suffer from traffic congestion	177 units.	area in West Sussex, with over 250 businesses and 3000 employees based on the park.	movements and handled 1.5 million tonnes of cargo in 2023.
The number of businesses has increased but the proportion per 10,000 people is still lower than in West Sussex and the South East	Adur has a higher proportion of small businesses (employing 0-4 people) and a lower proportion of businesses employing 20 or more people. Most are based in the construction industry.	Employment activity rates are higher in Adur than the South East and Great Britain average. Average gross weekly earnings are increasing at a faster rate than the wider area.	NGA superfast broadband is available to 99% of properties

Table 4: People baseline

The proportion of adults cycling is above the national average. Cycle routes include NCN route 2 along the seafront and national route 223 into the SDNP	1 in 4 adults is physically inactive, more than 1 in 4 is obese, and 1 in 11 adults smoke. Adur is in the highest quartile in Sussex for prevalence of long term conditions.	The population of Adur has grown in size since the last census. However it remains the smallest in West Sussex	House prices are lower than the rest of West Sussex and the South East but in terms of affordability this has worsened from 7.36 times earnings in 2003 to 13.95 times earnings in 2022.
Both Adur and Worthing have seen substantial increases in the amount of older people. The proportion of children has also increased.	In 2022/23, there were 163 homeless assessments in Adur. At the 2021-22 financial year end, Adur had 829 households on the housing waiting list.	1 in 3 children experience income deprivation in the most deprived neighbourhoods.	There is a 7-year gap between the life expectancy of people in the poorest areas of Adur compared with the wealthiest.

4.1.6. The following sections provide a more detailed overview of the baseline information for each of the SEA topics plus equalities and economic data.

4.2. Air

4.2.1. In 2005 two Air Quality Management Areas were declared at High Street in Shoreham and at Old Shoreham Road (the A270) in Southwick due to levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) being recorded at 46 micrograms/m³ and 48 micrograms/m³ respectively, thereby exceeding the legal limit of 40 micrograms/m³.

4.2.2. NO₂ is generally emitted from high temperature combustion processes such as road transport or energy generation. Traffic congestion therefore is a significant factor. The A27 is the only east to west trunk road south of the M25, linking key coastal communities between Portsmouth and Eastbourne and with the rest of the regional strategic road network (SRN). It serves a population of over 750,000 people and a large number of businesses in the major towns and cities along the route, including Worthing and Lancing. This stretch of the A27 between Worthing and Lancing suffers from traffic congestion which causes delays to journey times, road accidents and pollution.

4.2.3. Air quality annual status reports have confirmed the Southwick AQMA has complied with the annual target for almost 10 years, while Shoreham's AQMA has shown five years of compliance. This resulted in both AQMA's being revoked in December 2023.

4.2.4. The 2024 Air Quality Status Report concluded that measured concentrations of NO₂ continued to decrease at most monitoring sites and all sites in Adur were below the annual mean objective. Levels of PM_{2.5} were also measured below the current limit values in Shoreham. However the level in Shoreham High Street was above the Air Quality Strategy Objectives (Target Year 2040) and above the World Health Organisation (WHO) annual mean guideline limit of 10µg/m³.

4.2.5. Despite this the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) indicator on mortality attributed to particulate matter shows a downward trend in Adur with values decreasing from 7.8% in 2018 (compared to 7.1% in England) to 5.3% in 2021 (compared to 5.5% in England).

4.2.6. 2 sites in Adur have environmental permits for installations which have the potential to impact air quality these are

- ENVIROPOWER LTD BN15 8TU, for the incineration of non-hazardous waste
- Shoreham Power Station BN15 8TU

- 4.2.7. Adur has an increasing number of cycle routes and lanes, some of which make use of its location on the South Coast and the South Downs National Park. Routes and trails include:
- National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 2 - This runs from Worthing through to Hove, running along the seafront in Lancing and Shoreham Beach (predominantly an off-road treated cycle lane / shared space). The section from Shoreham Beach to Southwick is relatively disjointed and is not the most direct passage for cyclists. The Adur Ferry Bridge provides a new shared pedestrian and cycle crossing that links Shoreham with Shoreham Beach and which forms part of NCN 2.
 - National Route 223 - This route is also known as the 'Downs Link' and is a bridleway which runs along the River Adur from Shoreham (entirely off-road). It connects to the South Downs around Steyning/Beeding and Bramber with the North Downs around Guildford in Surrey. This is an untreated cycle / walking route. This route also links with the South Downs Way National Trail, a well-used long distance bridleway that connects Winchester in the West to Eastbourne in the East.
 - Other routes - There are other unconnected sections of cycle facilities in Adur on Upper Shoreham Road between Buckingham Road and Eastern Avenue. There are many footpaths/public rights of way leading from the urban / developed parts of Adur into the countryside to the north and into the South Downs National Park. Many of these routes could benefit from better signage.
 - A259 - The main transport route running east – west (the A259) is a poor environment for pedestrians and cyclists. The road is busy, noisy and dusty. The A270 (Old Shoreham Road) is an alternative route but this is also blighted by high volumes of traffic, poor air quality and an unwelcoming environment.

Figure 1: Cycle Routes

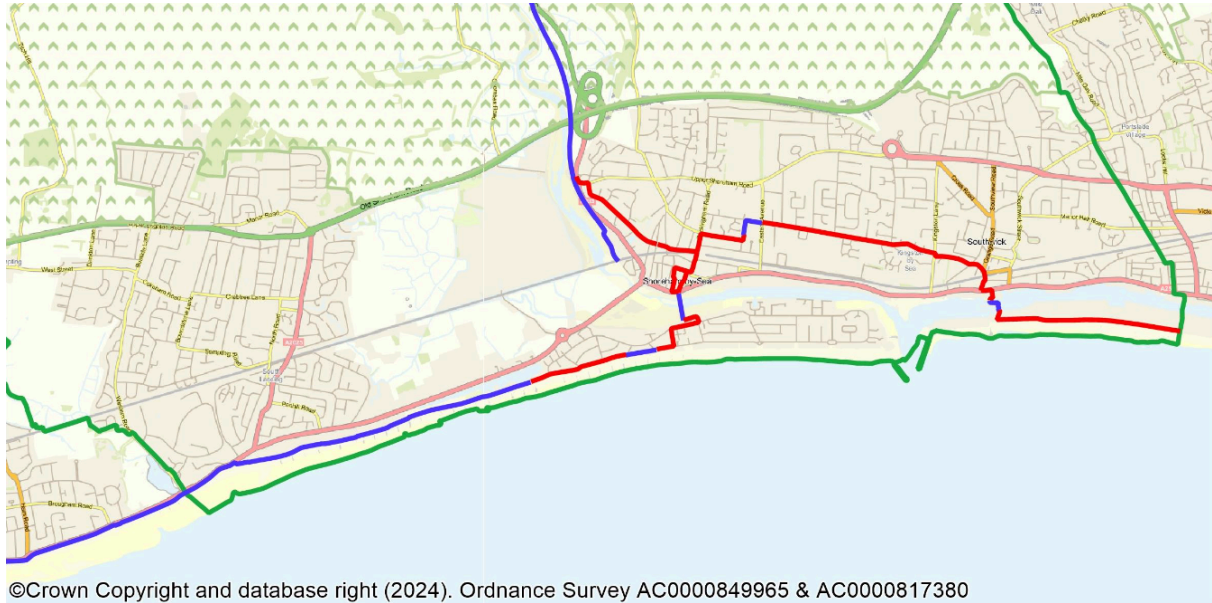


Table 5: Cycling Rates

Proportion of adults cycling in Adur (CW0302)			
	Cycling at least once a week for any purpose	Cycling at least once a week for leisure	Cycling at least once a week for travel
2016	15.6	12.8	8.1
2017	12.9	8.2	6.9
2018	13.1	8.7	8.2
2019	17.7	10.9	10.2
2020	18.4	13.5	9.7
2021	12.7	8.7	6.8
2022	13.4	5.2	10.1
2023	11.5	7.6	7.2

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/walking-and-cycling-statistics#annual-walking-and-cycling-statistics>

4.2.8. National statistics on cycling show that after the increase in cycling throughout the pandemic there was a drop back to levels similar to before the pandemic. 2023 saw lower levels in Adur of the proportion of adults cycling at least once a week however this is still above the national rate.

- 4.2.9. There is a risk that without adequate mitigation unplanned developments could result in increased traffic congestion and reliance on the car which may contribute to a reversal in these trends and worsening air quality. The Local Plan can include policies to positively address air quality issues by ensuring new developments are designed in a way that reduces reliance on the car and promotes active travel. However it has limited effect on lifestyle choices and behaviours.

4.3. Biodiversity (flora & fauna)

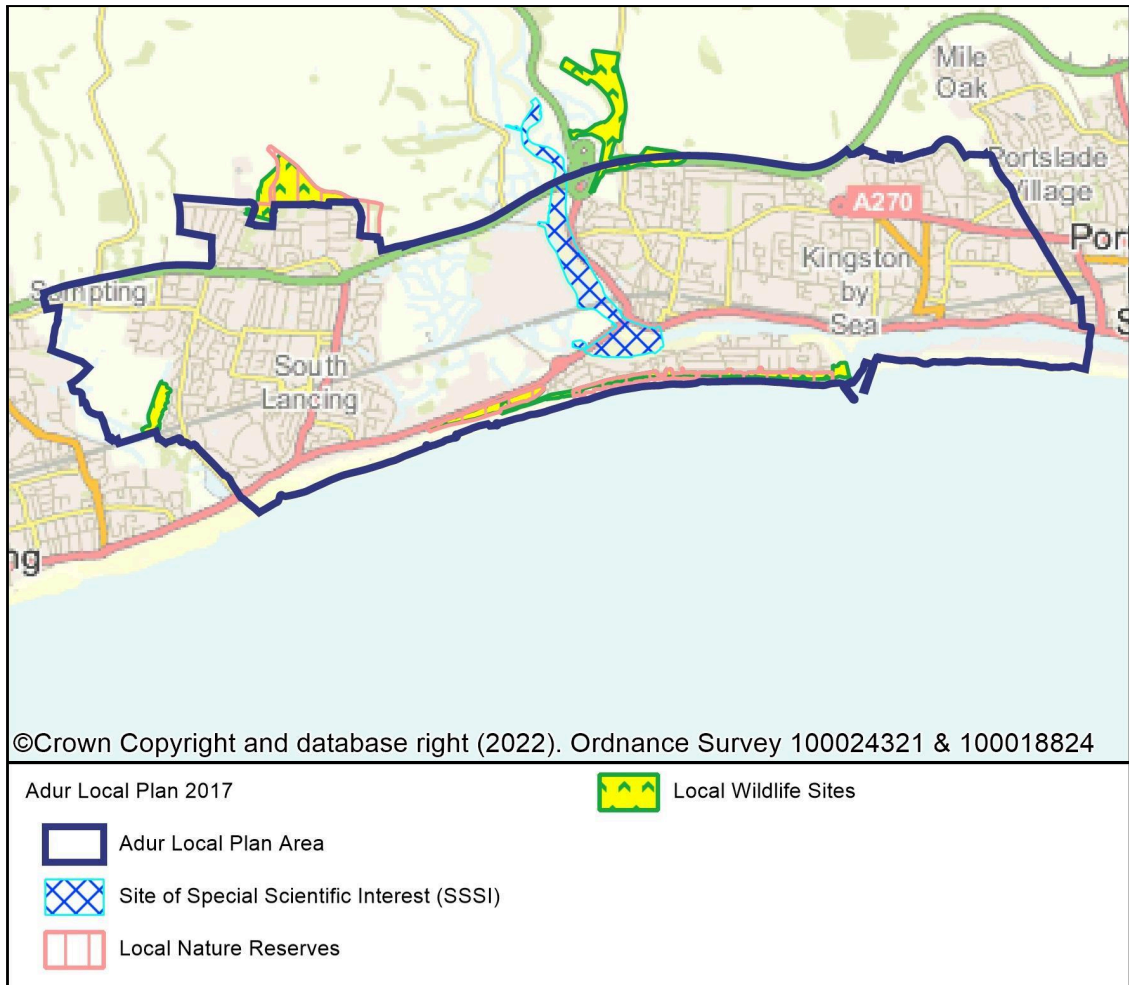
- 4.3.1. There are no internationally designated sites within Adur District, though the east of the District is part of the Living Coast Biosphere. There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the District. These are the Adur Estuary and part of Cissbury Ring and, in total they comprise six SSSI units.
- 4.3.2. Cissbury Ring SSSI is an ancient hill fort site situated on chalk. The main biological interest of the site centres on the areas of unimproved chalk grassland. This SSSI consists of 4 units. Of these 3 are classed as unfavourable - recovering which is defined as 'The feature is not yet fully conserved but the necessary actions to achieve favourable condition have been identified and recorded, at least one action underway, no actions behind schedule. Provided that the recovery work is sustained, the feature will reach favourable condition in time.' The remaining unit is classed as favourable meaning the designated feature is being adequately conserved.
- 4.3.3. Adur Estuary SSSI is the only SSSI within the Local Plan area. It was designated as together with Rye Harbour further to the east, they represent the only significant areas of saltmarsh between Chichester and Pagham Harbours in West Sussex, and Sandwich Bay in Kent. The large area of intertidal mudflats within the estuary are important for a variety of wading birds. Part of the site is also a RSPB reserve. The intertidal mudflats of the Adur Estuary support a number of wading birds, particularly redshank, dunlin and ringed plover. The number of ringed plovers regularly exceed 1% of the total British population, making the estuary of national importance for this species.
- 4.3.4. Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Measures and scrub encroachment are listed as active pressures. In 2022 'Water Company Discharges Causing Water Pollution' was added as a potential pressure.
- 4.3.5. The SSSI covers 60.26ha. In 2008 it was recorded as being in favourable condition. However, since 2021 74.59% of it is recorded as being in unfavourable - declining condition. The SSSI consists of 4 units. Of these 3 are classed as unfavourable - declining condition. This is defined as 'The

feature is not being conserved and will not reach a favourable condition unless there are changes to management or external pressures. The feature condition is becoming progressively worse. This is reflected in the results of monitoring over time'. Coastal squeeze and public access/disturbance are listed as adverse condition reasons. In addition lack of corrective works and inappropriate scrub control have been assigned to an area of reedbed now separated from the estuary by a wide footpath. It is thought that coastal defence works on the east bank between the road bridge and the old Toll Bridge may have contributed to this decline. Restoration work is planned further up the estuary and in relation to the Tidal walls scheme.

4.3.6. There are eleven Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in the District and four Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) – Widewater, Mill Hill, Shoreham Beach and Lancing Ring.

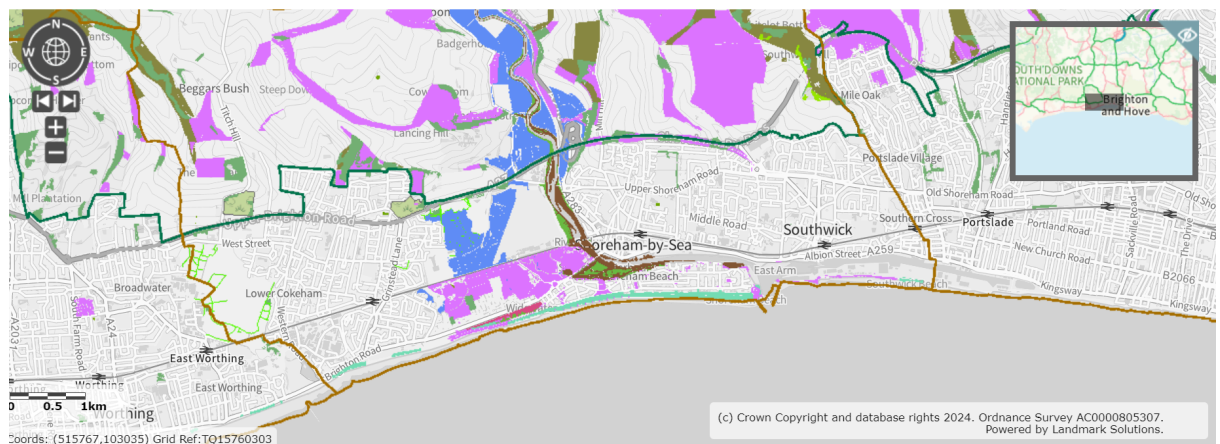
- Widewater is a shallow micro-tidal lagoon which is an area of brackish water landlocked by a man-made shingle bank. It is home to herons, swans and many other wildfowl.
- Lancing Ring is located within the District but outside of the Local Plan area. This site is important for its chalk grassland, a rare and diverse habitat.
- Mill Hill - Unimproved species rich chalk grassland, scrub, mature scrub and secondary woodland. Chalk grassland is part of a Sussex habitat Action Plan and Mill Hill has over 160 recorded species of flowering plants and up to 30 recorded species per metre.
- Shoreham Beach - The vegetated shingle on this beach is an internationally rare habitat that contains such plants as Yellow Horned Poppy, Sea Kale and Curled Dock.

Figure 2: Biodiversity Sites



4.3.7. There are no records of ancient woodland in the Local Plan area but there are recordings of saltmarsh along the River Adur and at Widewater lagoon which are included as an irreplaceable habitat by the NPPF. However national mapping suggests there are areas containing habitats and species of principal importance in England (first identified as priority habitats and species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan) including 244ha of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, 144ha lowland calcareous grassland, 109ha deciduous woodland and 74ha intertidal mudflat (Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre, Annual Monitoring Report, 2023).

Figure 3: Habitats of Principal Importance



MAGIC, 2024

- 4.3.8. Forest Research canopy cover interactive webmap shows in Adur the following canopy cover by ward which gives an average for the District of 10% which is below the current average for England. There is variation across Wards with the lowest being Marine Ward with 5.5% coverage and the highest being Southwick Green with 18.3%.
- 4.3.9. Without the Local Plan opportunities to enhance existing habitats and improve networks and wildlife corridors as part of developments could be missed. Given the high pressure for housing and limited land availability, unplanned development may threaten the small areas of remaining biodiversity. The Local Plan can seek to protect areas with high ecological and biodiversity value. It can also set local requirements for biodiversity net gain. However the Local Plan would not influence how habitat is managed on existing sites.

4.4. Climatic Factors - Adaptation

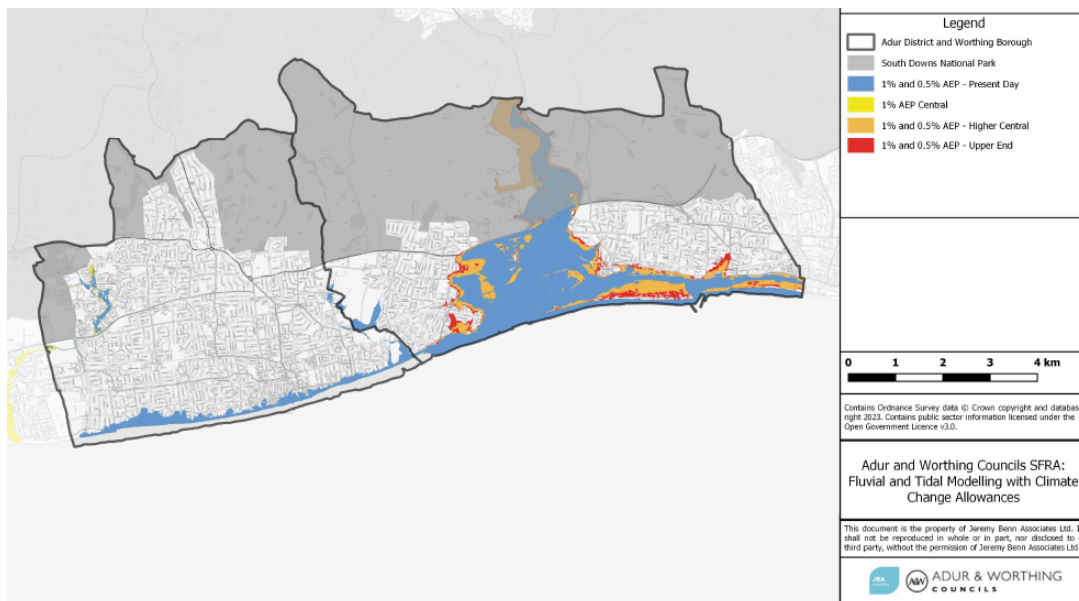
- 4.4.1. The Met Office ‘State of the UK Climate’ is an annual report. The most recent version dated 2023 highlighted that the UK’s climate continues to change. Recent decades have been warmer, wetter and sunnier than the 20th Century. In particular:
- 2023 was the second warmest year on record for the UK in the series from 1884, with only 2022 warmer. Six years in the most recent decade (2014-2023) have been within the top-ten warmest in the series.
 - Observations show that extremes of temperature in the UK have been affected much more than average temperature. The number of ‘hot’ days (28C) has more than doubled and ‘very hot’ days (30C) more than trebled for the most recent decade (2014-2023) compared to 1961-1990.
 - The UK’s second warmest year of 2023, the warmest June and the September heatwave were all made more likely by climate change.

- 2023 was the seventh wettest year on record for the UK in the series from 1836, with 113% of the 1991-2020 average. March, July, October and December 2023 were all top-ten wettest months.
- Five of the ten wettest years for the UK in the series from 1836 have occurred in the 21st Century.
- For the second successive year, 2023 was the warmest year for UK near-coast sea surface temperature (SST) in a series from 1870.
- Data from the tide gauge at Newlyn, one of the longest available records around the UK, shows sea level is rising, with 2023 the highest year on record since 1916. Other sites around the UK also had their highest or second highest year on record.

4.4.2. Within Adur 33.3% of developed land is currently within Flood Zone 3 compared to 6.8% across the south east (Land Use Statistics, 2022). With climate change sea levels are predicted to rise and we are likely to experience more frequent intense storms. The Adur & Worthing Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) has mapped the future flood risks taking account of the latest climate change allowances This shows a significant increase in flood risk in parts of Lancing, on Shoreham Beach, south of the railway in Shoreham and extending north of the railway line at Southwick.

4.4.3. The majority of the River Adur in Adur District has fluvial and tidal defences along its length, while the Ferring Rife and Teville Stream have fluvial defences in places. The coastline in Adur District is protected by coastal defences. The majority of defences in Adur District and Worthing Borough provide a standard of protection of at least 4% AEP, with many of the defences in Adur District providing a standard of protection of 1% AEP or greater. The Shoreham Adur Tidal Walls flood defence scheme provides protection of extreme events with 0.33% probability (1-in-300-year), allowing for 50 years of sea level rise.

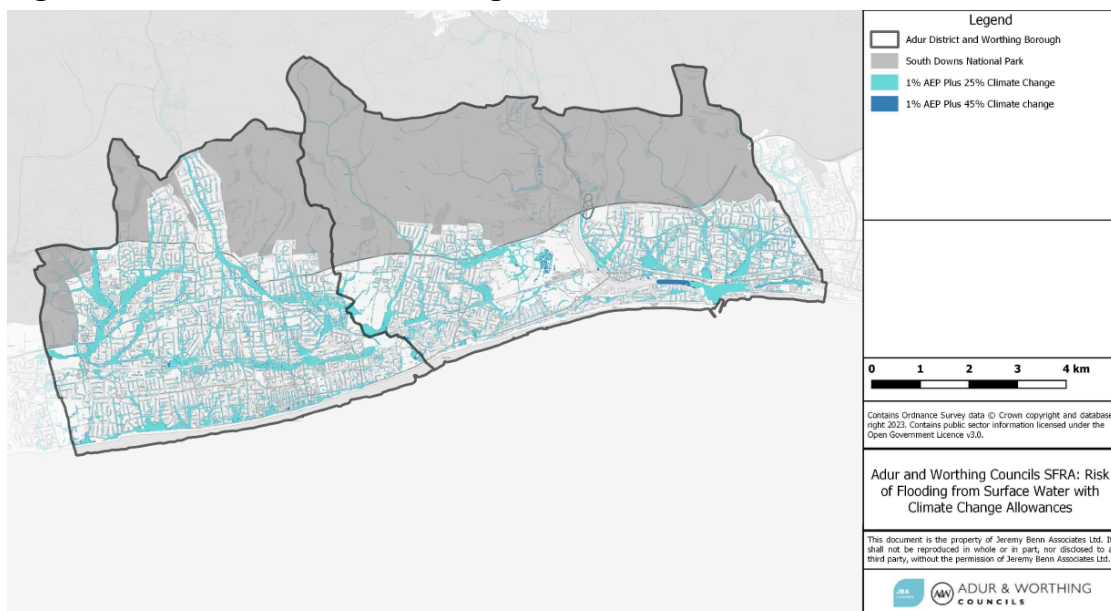
Figure 4: Future Fluvial and Tidal Flood Risk



Extract from Adur & Worthing Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024)

- 4.4.4. In terms of surface water the flow paths currently identified become far more pronounced and extend further. As the map shows there will be a significant increase in the areas at risk.

Figure 5: Future Risk of Flooding from Surface Water



Extract from Adur & Worthing Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024)

- 4.4.5. Since April 2016 the Environment Agency (EA) has objected to 85 planning applications considered by Adur District or Worthing Borough Council. Out of these 1 application was permitted against EA advice, in 62 cases the EA advice was followed and in 22 cases the outcome is unknown. Historic data shows that 3 flood alerts or warnings were issued in 2018 within the Local

Plan area; 4 in 2019, 12 in 2020, 2 in 2021, 1 in 2022, 1 in 2023 and 4 in 2024.

- 4.4.6. The Local Plan can help direct development away from areas that are at the greatest risk of flooding and ensure they are designed in a way that helps increase resilience to the effects of climate change. However, without a Local Plan planning applications would still need to conform with national policy.

4.5. Climatic Factors - Mitigation

- 4.5.1. In Adur since 2005 per capita emissions have steadily decreased annually matching trends locally and nationally. Transport is the sector with the highest emissions (85.3ktCO₂e) followed by domestic (71.3 ktCO₂e). The sectors with the lowest emissions are land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, waste and agriculture with 0.5, 3.5 and 5.9 ktCO₂e respectively.

Table 6: Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2005 - 2022

Calendar Year	Per Capita Emissions
2005	6.9
2006	6.7
2007	6.5
2008	6.4
2009	5.9
2010	6.1
2011	5.3
2012	5.2
2013	4.9
2014	4.5
2015	4.6
2016	4.3
2017	4.1
2018	4.0
2019	3.8
2020	3.4

2021	3.4
2022	3.3

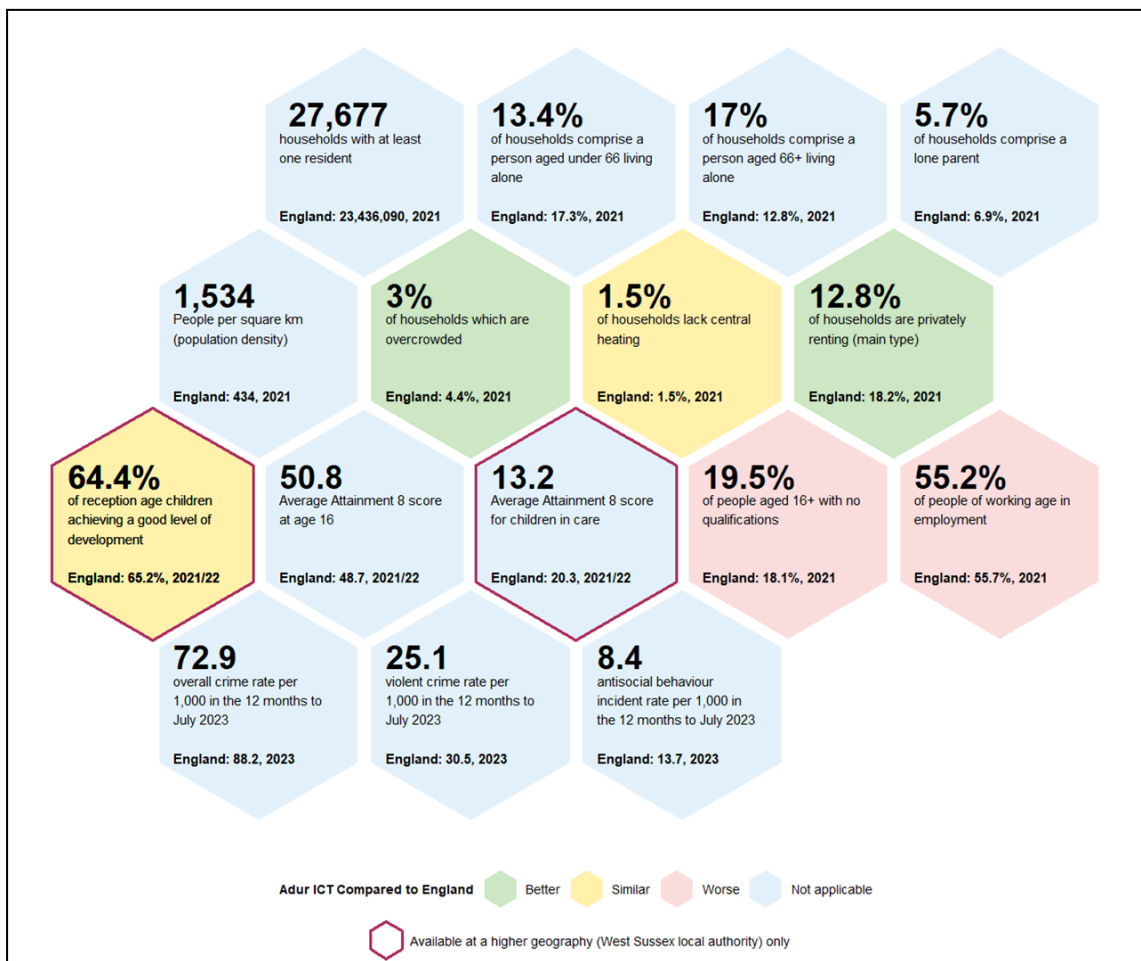
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022>

- 4.5.2. Since 2014 (as at 2022) there were 1053 installations of photovoltaics, 2 installations of onshore wind and 1 installation of plant biomass in Adur (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>). Shoreham Port is one of eleven ports to hold Eco Port status, with two 100 kW wind turbines and a 2.2 MW PV array.
- 4.5.3. Shoreham Power Station is a combined cycle gas turbine station. It has been online since 2000 and provides 460MW of electricity, to meet the energy needs of 400,000 homes on the south coast. It was originally built on the site of the decommissioned Brighton 'B' coal power station, and reutilised existing infrastructure from the nearby harbour for sea water cooling and a high voltage National Grid connection. The station uses a gas turbine, and a steam turbine and generator to provide one of the more efficient forms of thermal generation.
- 4.5.4. Many sustainability standards particularly for new homes are set by Building Regulations. Without the Local Plan, these would continue to limit emissions from new homes and existing home owners may also seek to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. The Local Plan cannot amend Building Regulations or influence existing owners to improve the sustainability of buildings where development is not proposed. However, Local Plans can identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure; and opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems.

4.6. Population and Equalities

- 4.6.1. Census data shows that between 2011 and 2021, the population of Adur increased by more than 5% to 64,500 . This increase is similar to England but lower than other parts of West Sussex. Although lower than the England rates overall there has been a substantial increase in the proportion of older people (13.1%). However since the last census there has been a noticeable increase (11%) in the proportion of under 15s in Adur (compared to a 1.8% increase in Worthing).

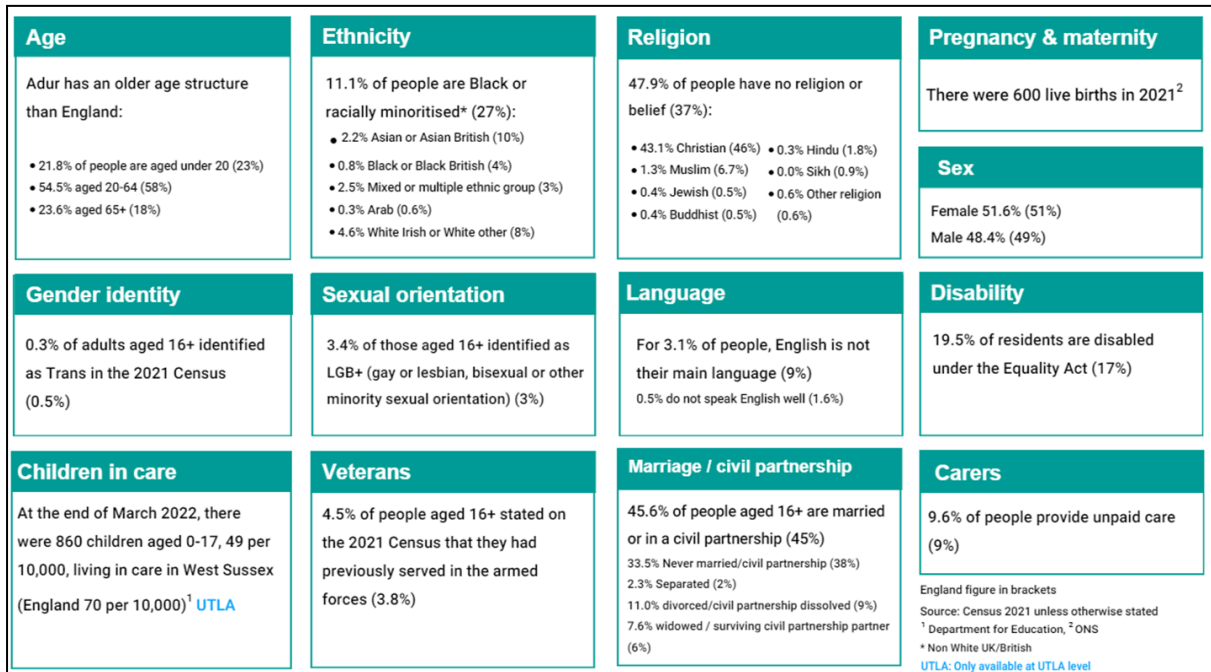
Figure 6: Adur Population Data



Adur ICT Profile 2023

- 4.6.2. Adur is relatively densely populated (compared with England overall). One in six households are single person households of older people (aged 66 years or over). A lower percentage of people privately rent compared with England.
- 4.6.3. Slightly more adults have no formal qualifications (compared with England). Attainment levels (in terms of readiness for school, and at 15/16 years) are similar to England as a whole. Crime rates, including violent crime, and anti-behavioural incident rates compare favourably with England.

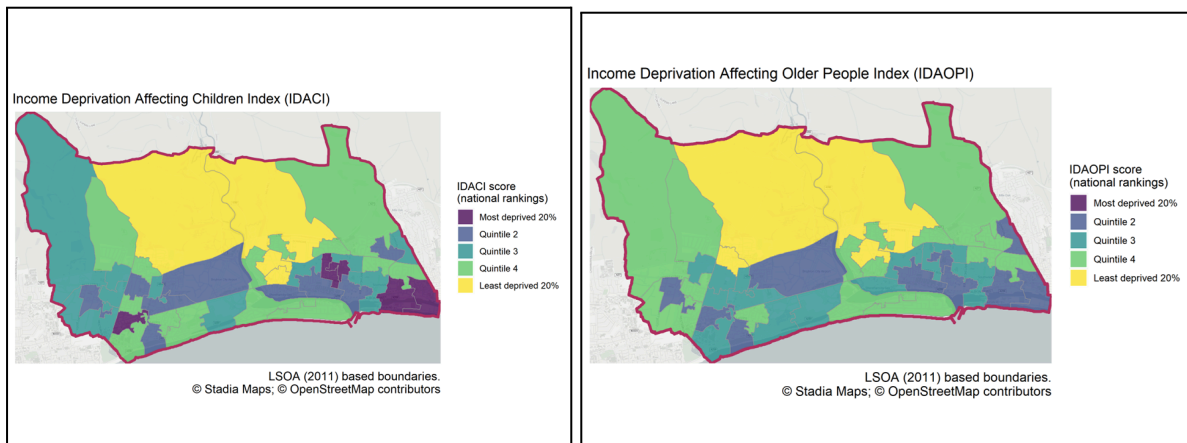
Figure 7: Adur Equalities Data



Adur ICT Profile 2023

4.6.4. Within Adur there is one area ranking in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally, with a population of approximately 1,500 residents. Five of its 42 neighbourhoods had an IDACI score (proportion of 0-15s living in income deprived families) in the top 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. The highest score in a neighbourhood locally was 36.9% or one in three children experiencing income deprivation. In contrast there are no neighbourhoods in Adur with an IDAOPPI score (proportion of 60+ year olds living experiencing income deprivation) in the top 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country.

Figure 8: Deprivation Affecting Children and Older People



Source Adur ICT Profile 2023

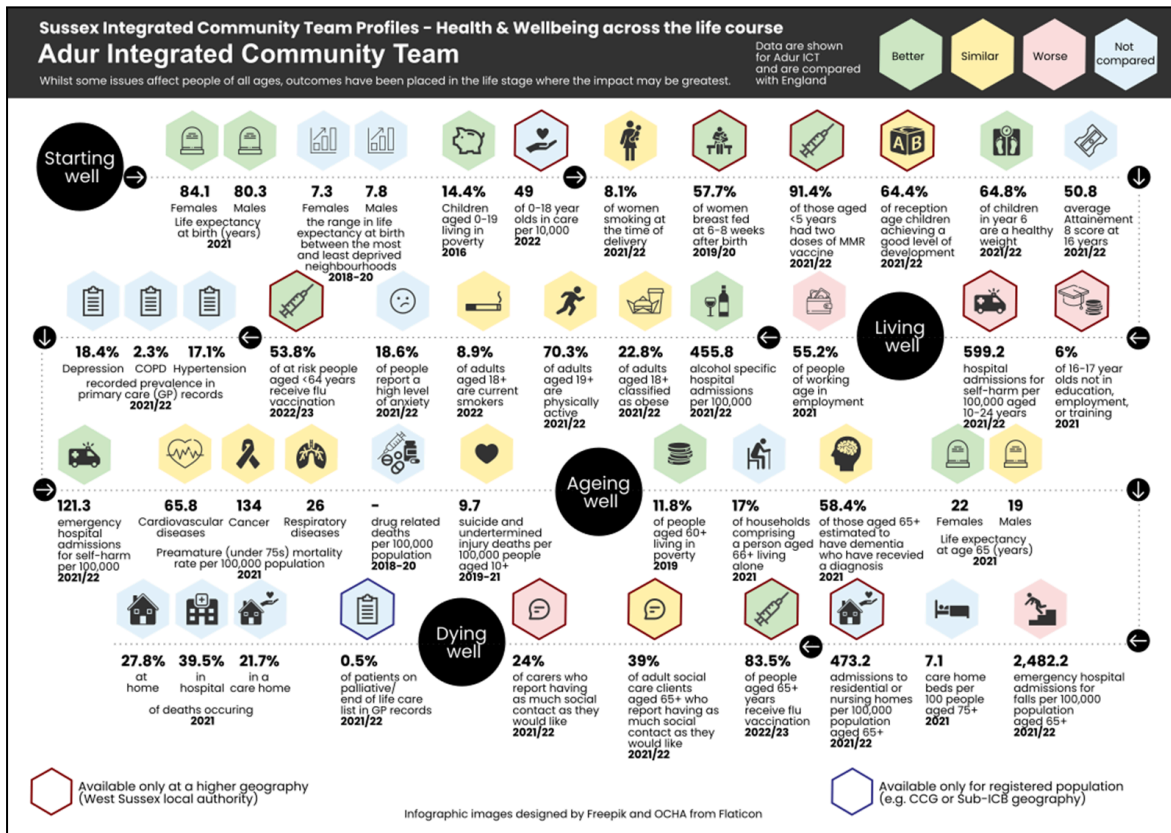
- 4.6.5. House prices have increased slightly since 2018 / 2019. However the average property price Dec-2022 to Nov-2023 for all dwelling types in Adur District (£401,341) is lower than within South East (£455,443) and lower than the average within West Sussex (£443,188) (Land Registry). In 2023 the proportion of dwelling stock within council tax band A was 9.61%. This is similar to the proportion in South East (8.87%) and higher the proportion in West Sussex (7.15%). At the other end of the scale, the proportion of dwelling stock within council tax band H was 0.03%. This is less than the proportion in South East (0.96%) and less than the proportion in West Sussex (0.74%). The 2021 Census finds 3.01% of housing is defined as having too few bedrooms. This is similar to the proportion in South East (3.45%) and similar to the proportion in West Sussex (2.95%). 5.82% of housing in Adur District was considered overcrowded in 2021. This is similar to the proportion in South East (5.59%) and similar to the proportion in West Sussex (5.32%). In Adur District 1.53% of households lack central heating. This is similar to the proportion in South East (1.31%) and similar to the proportion in West Sussex (1.26%).
- 4.6.6. In 2003, house prices were 7.36 times earnings in Adur and 7.22 times in Worthing. Between 2003 and 2022, this has increased to 13.95 times in Adur and 11.26 in Worthing. This means that market housing for sale is increasingly unaffordable (ONS, 2023). The discrepancy between local wages and house prices highlights a significant barrier for households in Adur and Worthing that are wanting to get on the property ladder, particularly for young people and first-time buyers. In 2022/23, there were 163 homeless assessments in Adur. As at 31.08.2024, Adur had 976 households on the housing waiting list.
- 4.6.7. Without a Local Plan, valued community facilities may be threatened due to the demand for new housing sites. The quality of the environment has an important role to play in the health of the local population. The Local Plan can help ensure new developments are of a high quality and that services are able to adapt to any increase in demand as a result of development. The Plan can also set local policies for housing mix, density, affordable housing and tenure to ensure that development contributes to meeting local needs, particularly in terms of providing sufficient affordable homes and specialist housing for the ageing population.

4.7. Human Health

- 4.7.1. For most outcomes, Adur is similar to, or better than, England. But there remain considerable health challenges, one in four adults is physically inactive, more than one in four is obese, and one in eleven adults smoke. Adur is in the highest quartile in Sussex for prevalence of long term conditions

including asthma, COPD, CHD, Chronic Kidney Disease, Depression, Diabetes, Obesity and Other hypertension. (Adur ICT Profile 2023).

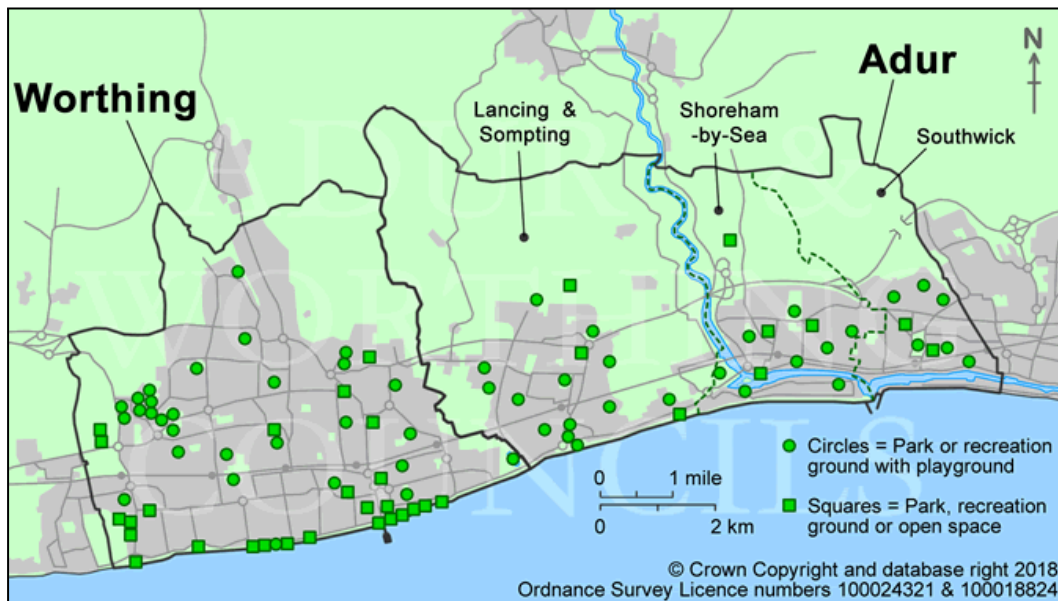
Figure 9: Adur Health and Wellbeing Profile



Adur ICT Profile 2023

- 4.7.2. Overall people in Adur enjoy a relatively long life , however there is a 7-year gap between the life expectancy of people in the poorest areas of Adur compared with the wealthiest. This is a 7.8 years difference for men and a 7.3 years difference for women.
- 4.7.3. Primary Care – There are 2 primary care networks with 4 GP Practices in Adur, patients registered at Adur Health Partnership make up >50% of the ICT population. All 4 GP practices currently rated Good by CQC. In the past 12 months there was a small fall in the registered population. Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea provides outpatient, diagnostic and day surgery services alongside a new, purpose-built ophthalmology centre for eye patients.
- 4.7.4. Access to outdoor green spaces is known to be important for people’s health and wellbeing. On average, Adur District has a total green space coverage of 3.06%. This is similar to the average across South East (3.19%) and similar to the average across West Sussex (2.62%) (Ordnance Survey, 2017).

Figure 10: Parks and Recreation Grounds

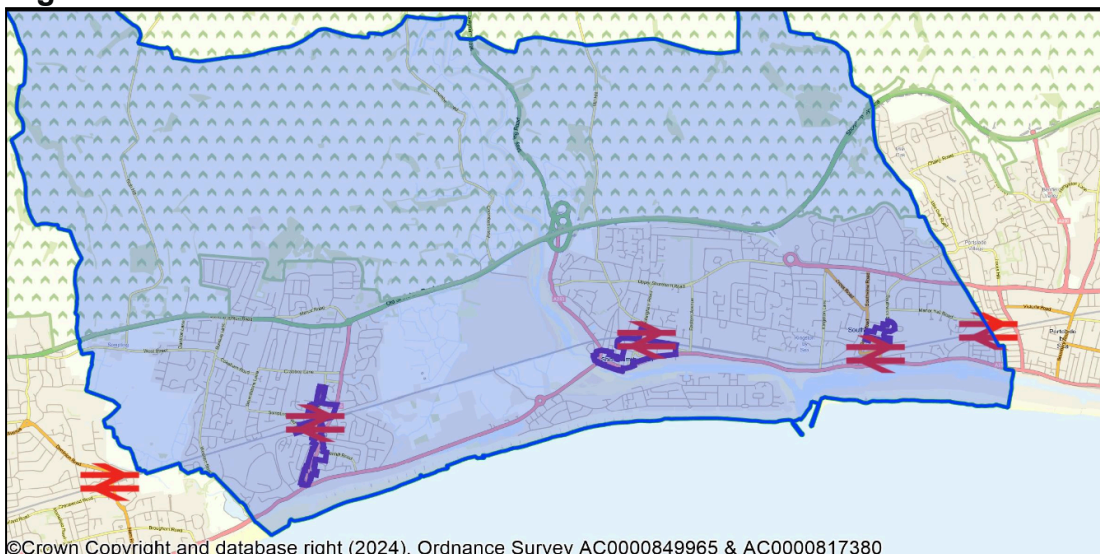


4.7.5. The Local Plan can influence the wider determinants of health in relation to the environment, local economy and community that could impact on physical and mental health and help reduce health inequalities. In particular it can help prioritise active travel within new developments and help ensure issues such as overheating are addressed. The Local Plan is however limited in terms of its influence on individuals' behaviours.

4.8. Economy and Employment

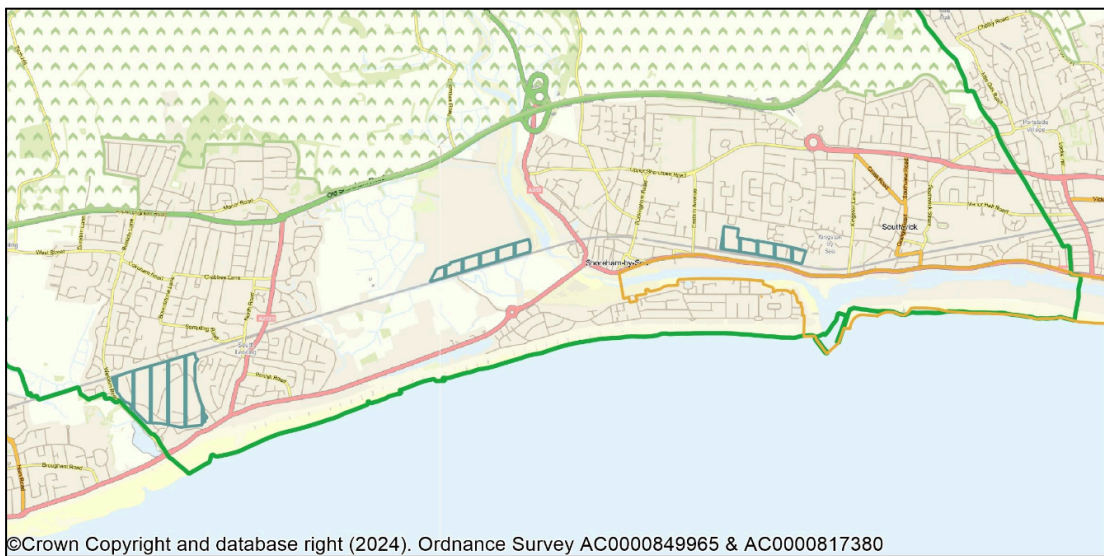
4.8.1. The Adur Local Plan (2017) designated 3 town centres: Shoreham, Lancing and Southwick. Shoreham is the largest town centre with 177 units. The town centres are linked with each having a train station. Outside of the town centres is Holmbush shopping centre which is located close to the A27.

Figure 11: Town Centres and Train Stations



- 4.8.2. The 2017 Local Plan also designated three key employment areas: Lancing Business Park, Shoreham Airport and Dolphin Road Industrial Estate. Lancing Business Park is the 2nd largest business area in West Sussex, with over 250 businesses and 3000 employees based on the park. Shoreham Port is another key site in the area. It is a busy commercial shipping hub, with 650 commercial vessel movements and almost 2 million tonnes of cargo handled in 2021 which had reduced to 1.5 million tonnes in 2023.

Figure 12: Key Employment Areas



- 4.8.3. Adur is served by three main internet exchanges at Shoreham, Lancing and Portslade. The district is well served by both BT and Virgin Media internet providers and NGA superfast broadband is available to 99% of properties in the district. Those properties without access to a basic broadband service are able to access services via a central government satellite scheme.
- 4.8.4. In 2023 there were 720.7 VAT based local business units per 10,000 people in Adur District. This is lower than the number in South East (878.3) and lower than the number in West Sussex (839.8). Additionally, the number of business units has increased in Adur District, changing from 584.7 in 2011. The proportion of small businesses (employing 0-4 people) in Adur District is 73.64%. This is similar to the proportion in South East (72.94%) and higher than the proportion in West Sussex (72.29%). In contrast, the proportion of businesses employing 20 or more people in Adur District is 6.92%. This is lower than the proportion in South East (7.60%) and lower than the proportion in West Sussex (7.68%). The highest proportion of business units are based in the construction industry (19.44%). 12.71% are based in profession, scientific and technical services which is lower than the rate in West Sussex and the

South East. The proportion of small enterprises is similar to the South East and West Sussex (ONS).

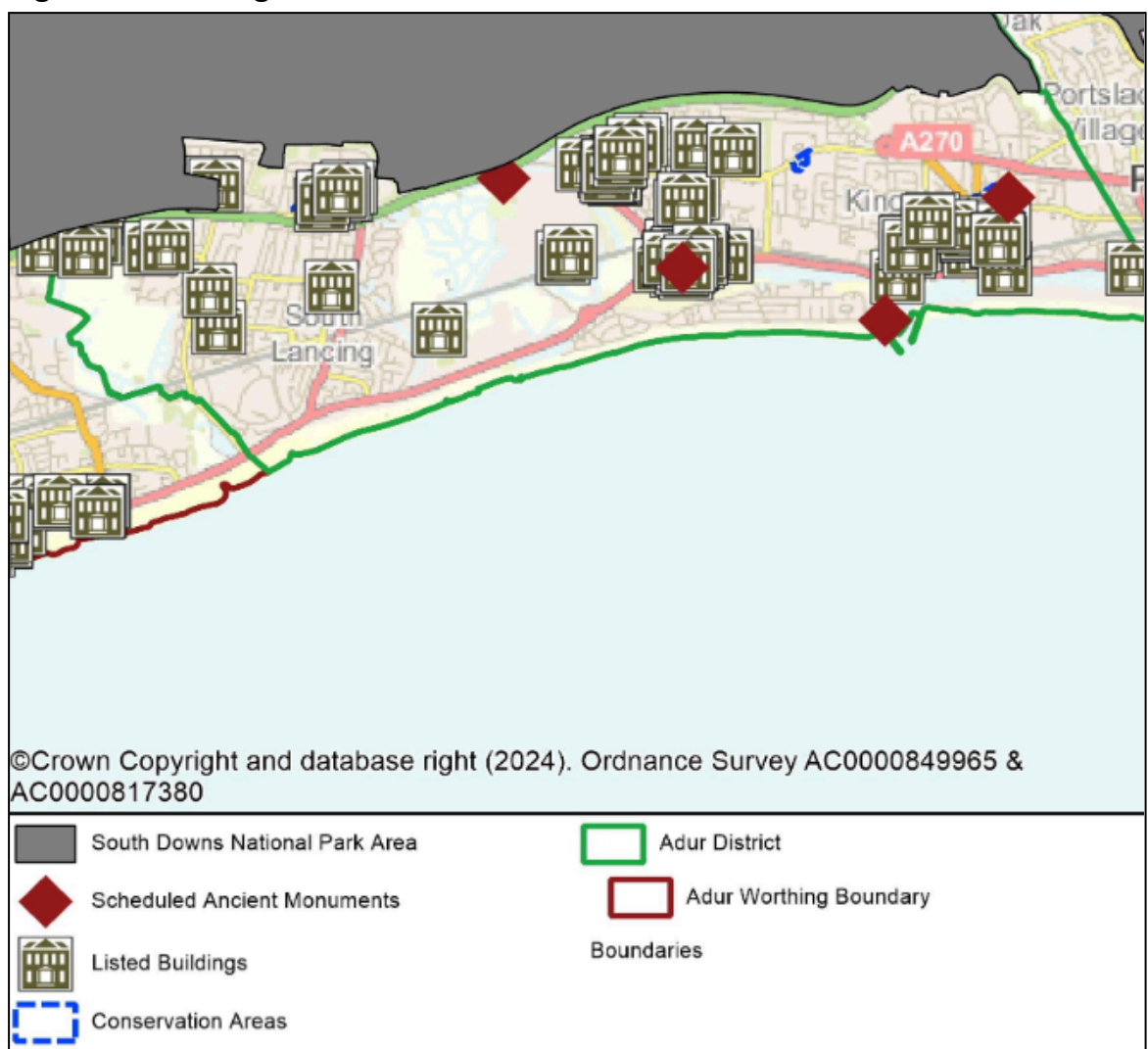
- 4.8.5. Jobs density reflects the number of jobs located in the local area as a percentage of the working age population in that area. Data is taken from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) of approximately 80,000 businesses and weighted to represent all sectors of the UK economy. In Adur District jobs density has increased, changing from 51.6% in 2009 to 56.24% in 2022. This latest figure is higher than the proportion in South East (52.71%) and lower than the proportion in West Sussex (74.78%). 87.25% of the jobs in Adur District are private sector employee jobs. This is higher than the proportion in the South East (84.90%) and higher than the proportion in West Sussex (85.08%) (Business Register and Employment Survey 2022). The proportion of retail jobs in Adur District is 10.78%. This is lower than the proportion in South East (13.16%) and higher than the proportion in West Sussex (9.77%). In contrast, the proportion of professional, scientific and technical jobs in Adur District is 6.78%. This is lower than the proportion in South East (14.63%) and similar to the proportion in West Sussex (7.17%).
- 4.8.6. Average Gross weekly earnings – data from the Office for National Statistics indicates that for full-time workers in Adur, the average (mean) gross weekly earnings was £562.60 for workers. This was an 8.0% increase from the year before. This is higher than the 3.9% increase for West Sussex, 7.8% increase for the South East and 6.5% increase for England. This is based on November 2023 data.
- 4.8.7. 2022 / 2023 economic activity rate for Adur (all people) was 78.7%. increased to 82.8%. The data indicates that employment activity rates are higher in Adur than the South East and Great Britain average. In the previous monitoring report, the levels of economic activity were higher in the South East than Adur. Economic activity rates have increased considerably for females since the last Adur monitoring report. 11.17% of the working age population were claiming out of work benefits in Adur District in Aug-2023. This is similar to the proportion in South East (10.95%) and higher than the proportion in West Sussex (10.14%) (ONS).
- 4.8.8. Without the Local Plan regeneration opportunities in the town centres may not be maximised and the need for new housing may threaten existing employment floorspace which could constrain economic growth and investment.
- 4.8.9. The Local Plan can give a level of certainty and clarity about the type of development in a locality and the wider aspirations of the area, which may encourage investment. It can also through policy set tests to afford protection

to those employment sites that are functioning well and needed to sustain the local economy.

4.9. Cultural Heritage

- 4.9.1. The historic environment of Adur is a significant part of the District's distinct character. Adur has a rich historic environment including 118 Listed Buildings, 7 Conservation Areas, various archaeological features and several Scheduled Ancient Monuments (including Shoreham Fort, Marlipins, and the Trainer Dome at Shoreham Airport).

Figure 13: Heritage Assets



- 4.9.2. The 2020 'Heritage at Risk' register included Southlands Conservation Area and the Church of St Mary De Haura, a Grade I Listed Building. Some urgent works have been completed to the church tower with the benefit of a grant from the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Scheme. Most

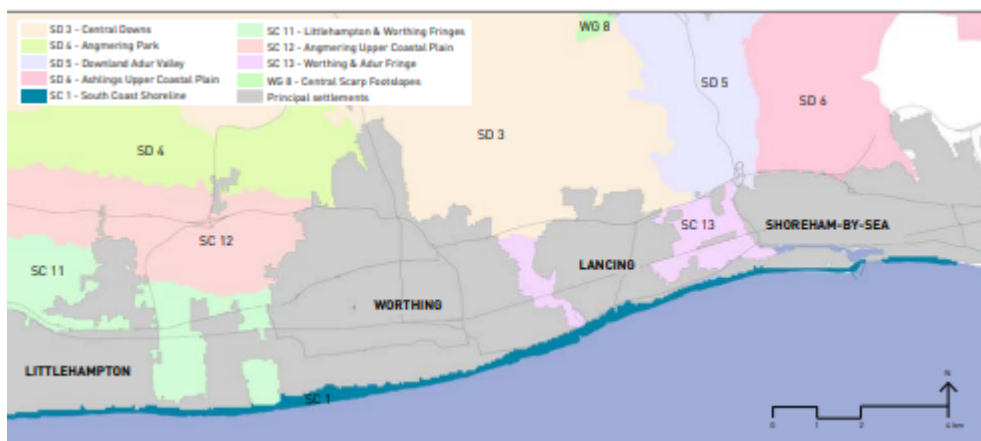
recently (2021) there have also been roof repairs but further repairs are required.

- 4.9.3. Without the Local Plan heritage assets would still be protected through national planning policies. However, through Local Plan policies and design guidance, the quality and local distinctiveness of new development and the character of the local area can be protected. The Local Plan can also support the enhancement of heritage assets though this will be limited to where these are part of allocated sites.

4.10. Landscape

- 4.10.1. 22.5% of Adur is developed compared to only 9.9% of land in the south east. 53% of Adur District is within the South Downs National Park (Land Use Statistics, 2022). This is outside of the local plan area. Therefore the Local Plan area is densely developed with very little undeveloped land. Given the proximity of the National Park, parts of the Local Plan area form the setting to the National Park. The Downs Link is an off-road waymarked route popular with walkers, cyclists and equestrians which links the coastal plain, South Downs Way and North Downs. It forms an important part of Adur’s ‘green infrastructure’ as an important ‘gateway’ into the South Downs National Park.
- 4.10.2. The area falls within the South Coast Plan National Character Area and within the SC13 - Worthing and Adur Fringes Local Character Area part of the West Sussex Landscape Classification.

Figure 14: Local Character Areas

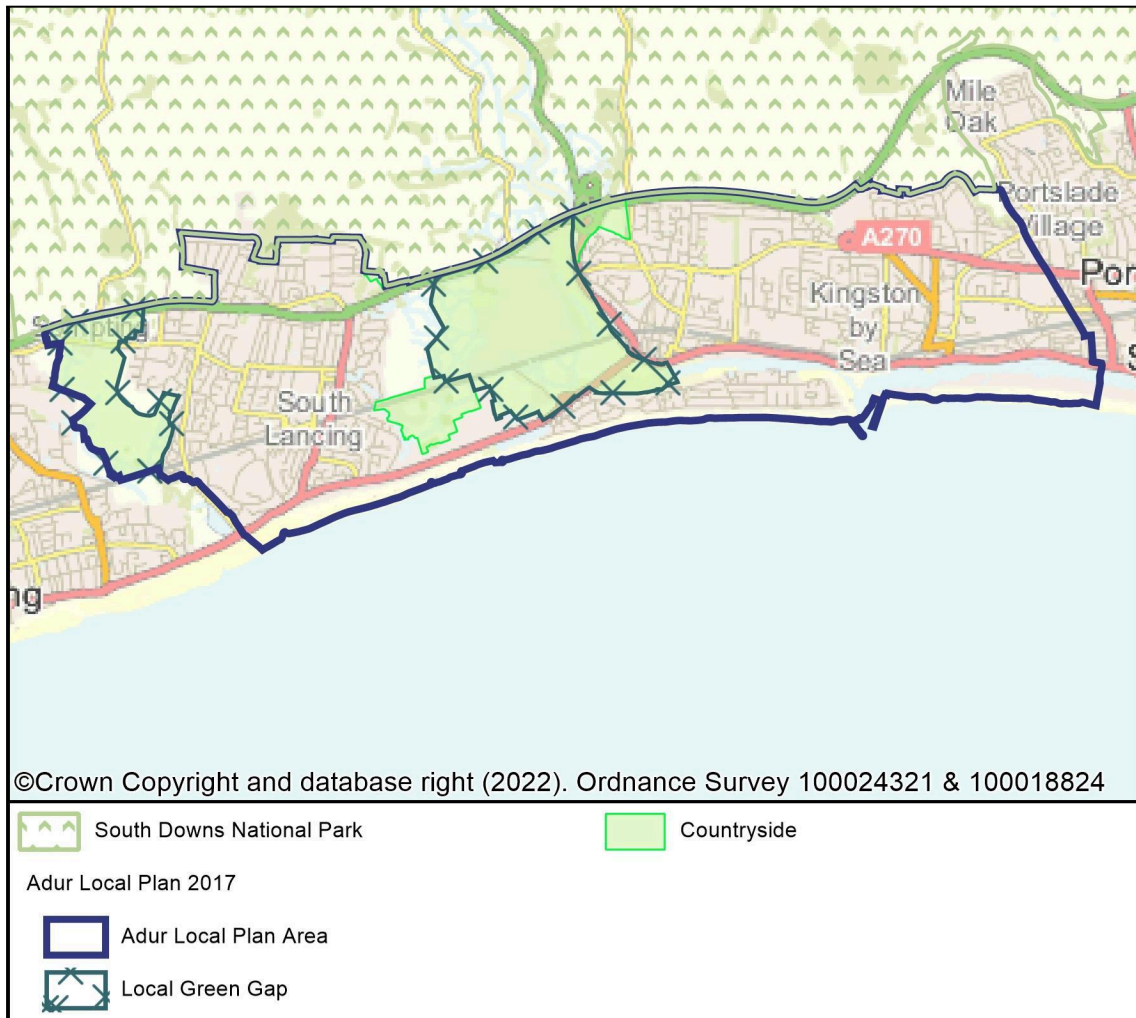


West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (2003)

- 4.10.3. The Adur Local Plan (2017) designated areas as Local Green Gap and countryside. The majority of the countryside lies within the open areas between Worthing – Lancing/ Sompting and Lancing – Shoreham-by-Sea which have also been designated as ‘Local Green Gaps’ to avoid coalescence

and preserve the separate characters and identities of Adur’s settlements by providing physical and visual breaks. This is particularly important given the compact nature of Adur and its location within the wider Brighton conurbation. Travelling along the south coast there are few breaks in development between Brighton and Chichester; those in Adur are particularly fragile due to their small size and narrowness

Figure 15: Local Green Gaps



4.10.4. Unplanned development may unintentionally adversely affect the local landscape character of Adur. The Local Plan has a key role to play in ensuring that new development respects the character of the surrounding area. This includes protecting heritage assets and preserving valued open spaces, attractive landscapes, coastline and the setting of the national park.

4.11. Soils

4.11.1. According to soilscape, to the east of the River Adur soils are classed as loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater.

Shoreham Beach to the south consists of sand dune soils. Elsewhere and across the majority of the area soils tend to be free draining loamy soils.

- 4.11.2. The majority of the land within the LP area is defined as urban within the Agricultural Land Classification Grade with some Grade 3 agricultural land to the west of the River Adur. The only exception to this is a small patch of Grade 1 Agricultural land to the immediate east of Lancing and west of sompting.
- 4.11.3. Without the LP, unplanned development could accelerate the loss of soils through increased development on greenfield sites. The Local Plan can help ensure that brownfield sites are prioritised with an appropriate level of development to make the most efficient use of a site. Local Plans can also help protect key open areas and the best and most versatile agricultural land.

4.12. Water

- 4.12.1. The River Adur flows out to sea at Shoreham. The lower Adur is an estuarine waterbody classed as having moderate ecological status or potential due to it being heavily modified as it flows through Shoreham. Water quality of this transitional water is monitored because this part of the river is used by the public for leisure activities and water sports. Throughout 2024 this has shown high levels of potentially harmful bacteria such as Escherichia coli (E.coli).
- 4.12.2. Bathing water quality at Shoreham Beach and Southwick is currently classed as Excellent. Bathing water quality at Lancing was classed as Good in 2019 and 2021 but has improved to excellent classification for 2022 and 2023. In Lancing, bathing water can sometimes be affected by the River Adur and the Teville Stream, particularly after heavy rainfall.
- 4.12.3. East Worthing Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) serves communities in Lancing, Sompting, Worthing, Ferring, Findon, Goring, Tarring and Shoreham. The works provide treatment capacity to a population equivalent of 137,559 with 1,167.163km of sewers. The sewerage system includes 26 wastewater pumping stations in the network to transport the water through the sewers from homes and businesses to the treatment works. The works is permitted to discharge just over 38,725 m³ per day of recycled water into the English Channel. Southern Waters Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan for the Adur and Ouse River Basin Catchment (2022) identifies that the majority of sewer collapses and rising main bursts were in Brighton, East Worthing, Newhaven and Goddards Green. East Worthing also had some of the highest number of incidents of internal sewer flooding within properties in 2017 - 18, though this appears to have since decreased in later years.

- 4.12.4. Shoreham WwTW serves communities in Brighton, Portslade, Shoreham by Sea, Southwick, Hove, Lancing and Fishersgate. The works provide treatment capacity to a population equivalent of 54,577 with 408.670km of sewers. Within the catchment there are 16 Pumping Stations with 3 located within Ropetackle Street, Beech Green and Harbour Way in Shoreham and are followed by a Rising Main which is longer than 100m. The permitted discharge within the WTW is up to 10,714m³ per day. Southern Waters Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (2022) identifies that Shoreham experienced the highest number of blockages in the Adur and Ouse catchment after Brighton and Ditchling.
- 4.12.5. Event Duration Monitors (EDM) record the frequency and duration of storm overflow spills. They are the primary source of data on the performance of storm overflows. Storm overflows are an automatic safety valve that releases excess pressure on the network from flooding and rainfall or snowmelt – preventing sewage backing up into properties and streets. They should, however, only be used under strict permit conditions.

Table 7: Storm Overflow Spills

Location	2021		2022		2023	
	Spills	Duration (hours)	Spills	Duration (hours)	Spills	Duration (hours)
Shoreham WwTW	69	180.18	30	91.23	44	119.61
Ropetackle Street, Shoreham P.S	7	8.21	9	13.88	3	1.2
The Green Southwick Cso	1	0.23	6	3.95	9	95.18
Worthing WwTW	8	37.17	35	230.24	52	494.89

Environment Agency 2024

- 4.12.6. Adur is within an area of Serious Water Stress and 98% of water supply is sourced from groundwater.
- 4.12.7. Without a Local Plan, opportunities to improve local water quality could be missed. The Local Plan can play a key role in helping to restore protected coastal and freshwater sites and priority habitats.

4.13. Material Assets

4.13.1. SEA legislation includes 'material assets' as a topic to be addressed in SEA but does not include a definition of what this topic might encompass; consequently it is interpreted in a number of different ways. Consideration of material assets in SEA is usually taken to cover a wide variety of assets and resources including some or all of the following:

- Built assets e.g. infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution, heat and energy efficiency and management, flood protection, water supply and waste water management, transport, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; land in relation to developed land / settlements, vacant, derelict and contaminated land; buildings and facilities such as housing, healthcare facilities, greenspace, core paths, cycle paths; manufactured goods; and
- Natural assets e.g. minerals (such as sand, gravel, rock, and slate), watercourses (supporting natural drainage and flood prevention processes), natural flood management processes, forestry and woodlands, agricultural land and associated elements such as field boundaries (e.g. hedges, stone walls).

4.13.2. Due to the cross references between topics Material Assets has therefore been addressed by the individual topics above.

4.13.3. The delivery of the right levels and type of infrastructure is essential to support new homes, economic growth and to protect the environment. The Local Plan will therefore be supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will identify the future infrastructure requirements of development proposed as a result of the Local Plan. The Local Plan will not include waste or minerals planning as these are the responsibility of West Sussex County Council.

5. Sustainability Issues

5.1. Key issues

5.1.1. Step 3 of Stage A of the SA process requires the identification of sustainability issues and problems.

5.1.2. The previous Local Plan identified the following key issues that will affect Adur up to 2032 and beyond:

- 1) The need to facilitate the regeneration of Adur
- 2) The need to improve infrastructure
- 3) The need to balance development and regeneration requirements against the limited physical capacity of Adur without detriment to environmental quality
- 4) The need to meet identified housing needs
- 5) The need to address demographic pressures
- 6) The need to address deprivation
- 7) The need to address road congestion and related pollution whilst improving the existing transport network and facilitating the development of sustainable transport measures
- 8) The need to address climate change and flood risk
- 9) The need to work towards achieving sustainability
- 10) The need to improve health and wellbeing
- 11) The need to maintain and enhance the quality of the built, historic and natural environment.

These have been reviewed against the key messages from relevant Plans Policies and Programmes and the updated baseline information.

5.1.3. We need to plan for good quality and new homes to meet the Local Plan area's future housing needs and help to address housing affordability in Adur. The updated standard method proposed by the new government currently generates a housing need figure for Adur of 449 homes per year, although the Government recently consulted on a revised approach which would increase this. Adur is very constrained geographically sandwiched between the coast and the National Park with tightly drawn boundaries. It will be for the Local Plan process to test what can actually be delivered in the Local Plan area to meet as much of the identified housing need as possible. In undertaking this the following sustainability issues and problems have been identified:

1. Protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, including the quality and ecology of our coastal and estuarine waters. Delivering biodiversity net gain and promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species;
2. Ensuring the natural character of Adur, the setting of the National Park and the historic character of our places are preserved and where possible enhanced.
3. Supporting economic growth and provision of good quality jobs by ensuring there is the right type and quality of floorspace for businesses to locate into and expand in Adur, and supporting the vitality and viability of our town centres.

4. Existing communities along the coast are at a high risk of flooding and this is expected to increase. Adapting to the changing climate and increasing the resilience of communities may help reduce this risk and minimise the impacts of flooding.
5. Supporting the redevelopment and remediation of previously developed land to maximise regeneration benefits and make the best use of the land available in the most sustainable locations.
6. Prioritising opportunities for safe active travel through a high quality, connected network of walking and cycling routes, green infrastructure and open spaces that help support healthy lifestyles and good air quality.
7. Reducing deprivation and inequalities by ensuring there is access to good quality suitable housing and high quality safe and accessible public spaces, facilities and services that promote social interaction, health and wellbeing.

6. Sustainability Appraisal Framework

6.1. Developing the framework

- 6.1.1. The key issues above have helped inform the sustainability objectives which form the basis of the framework to appraise the Local Plan options, strategy and policies. To improve consistency with the Local Plan these have also been aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- 6.1.2. Linked to each objective are a set of criteria against which options and policies can be appraised, as well as quantitative GIS based criteria against which development sites can be assessed.
- 6.1.3. The SA Framework will enable a comparative and equal assessment of all reasonable alternatives, including the preferred approach, against the baseline characteristics of the area and the likely situation if the plan were not to be adopted.
- 6.1.4. It is important to recognise that although every effort has been made to ensure all objectives are relevant and discreet, the cross cutting nature of some topic areas mean there will naturally be some interdependencies. The key ones are identified as follows:
 - Air quality, climatic factors (mitigation), material assets and health
 - Biodiversity, landscape and water
 - Climatic factors (adaptation), health, biodiversity, water, economy, material assets

- Climate factors (mitigation), air quality, health, economy, material assets
- Cultural heritage, climate change adaptation and mitigation, landscape
- Population, economy, health, water, material assets
- Human health, communities, air quality, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, landscape, material assets
- Economy, population, material assets, climatic factors (mitigation)
- Landscape, cultural heritage, biodiversity, water, economy, population
- Water, biodiversity, climatic factors (adaptation), human health, economy, material assets
- Soils, water, economy, landscape, biodiversity
- Material Assets, air quality, climatic factors (adaptation and mitigation), population, health, cultural heritage, water

6.2. Objectives

Table 8: SA Objectives And Criteria

SA Objective	Criteria	Relevant UN SDG	Relevant EIP goal
<p>1. Biodiversity</p> <p>SEA Topics: Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Climatic Factors</p> <p>HRA</p>	<p><u>Minimise impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity</u></p> <p>Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, and the protection and recovery of priority species</p> <p>Establish, maintain and enhance an integrated and resilient ecological networks of habitats and green infrastructure that are more resilient to current and future pressures.</p> <p>Improves environmental quality, recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services</p> <p>Boost tree planting and increase tree canopy cover</p> <p>Contribute to restoration and enhancement of the Adur Estuary Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Ensure net gains in biodiversity will be achieved</p>	<p>Goal 6: 6.6</p> <p>Goal 14: 14.1, 14.2</p> <p>Goal 15: 15.1, 15.5</p>	<p>Goal 1 Thriving plants and wildlife</p> <p>Goal 3 Clean and plentiful water</p>
<p>2. Climate change</p>	<p><u>Increase resilience and minimise vulnerability to the effects of climate change and reduce the risks of climate change through effective mitigation.</u></p>	<p>Goal 1: 1.5</p>	<p>Goal 3 Clean and</p>

<p>SEA Topics: Biodiversity, Climatic Factors, Human Health, Fauna, Flora, Soil, Water, Material Assets</p> <p>HIA</p>	<p>Support transition to a low carbon future by contributing to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the reuse of existing resources, the conversion of existing buildings and supporting renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure,</p> <p>Direct development away from areas at highest flood risk and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding</p> <p>Ensure development is safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere</p> <p>Reduce the causes and impacts of flooding through the use of multifunctional open SuDS, increased flood storage and natural flood management.</p> <p>Minimise vulnerability and improve the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to flood risk, overheating and drought by adapting to the changing climate</p> <p>Enable biodiversity to adapt to and be resilient to climate change through the restoration of natural processes</p>	<p>Goal 6: 6.4</p> <p>Goal 7: 7.2, 7.3</p> <p>Goal 13: 13.1</p>	<p>plentiful water</p> <p>Goal 7 Mitigating and adapting to climate change</p> <p>Goal 8 Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards</p>
<p>3. Healthy communities</p> <p>SEA Topics: Population,</p>	<p><u>Achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places that support communities and their wellbeing and reduces inequalities</u></p> <p>Ensure places are safe and accessible, so that social interaction is promoted and crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion</p>	<p>Goal 10: 10.2</p> <p>Goal 11: 11.1 11.2 11.7</p>	<p>Goal 2 Clean air</p>

<p>Human Health, Material Assets</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>EqIA</p>	<p>Locate development in sustainable locations with access for all to key social and cultural facilities and services to support strong thriving and inclusive communities</p> <p>Promote opportunities for and prioritise walking and cycling active travel by improving access to safe and connected networks and protecting and enhancing public rights of way.</p> <p>Provide access to high quality, inclusive and accessible open spaces that provide opportunities for sport and recreation.</p> <p>Protect tranquil areas and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life.</p> <p>Ensure access to suitable housing that is of a high quality, safe and secure and that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed</p>		
<p>4. Economy</p> <p>SEA Topics: Cultural Heritage, Human Health, Material Assets, Population</p> <p>HIA</p> <p>EqIA</p>	<p><u>Support an inclusive economy that encourages investment and provides good quality jobs</u></p> <p>Ensure there is suitable employment floorspace for businesses to invest, expand and adapt considering the specific requirements of different sectors.</p> <p>Seek to address potential barriers to inward investment, such as inadequate infrastructure</p> <p>Support the vitality, viability and diversity of town centres by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation.</p>	<p>Goal 8: 8.2 8.3</p> <p>Goal 9: 9.1</p>	

	Support high quality communications and the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections		
<p>5. Regeneration</p> <p>SEA Topics: Cultural heritage, soils, human health, material assets, population.</p> <p>HIA EqIA</p>	<p><u>Redevelopment regenerates places benefiting local communities</u></p> <p>Remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land</p> <p>Maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits of estate regeneration.</p> <p>Maximise use as possible of previously-developed or ‘brownfield’ land and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings</p> <p>Protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the district’s urban landscape and built environment</p>	Goal 11: 11.4	Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise waste
<p>6. Landscape and Setting</p> <p>SEA Topics: Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Soil, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape</p> <p>HRA</p>	<p><u>Conserve and enhance local character, setting and sense of place.</u></p> <p>Conserve and enhance the character and quality of valued landscapes, important views and the functions they serve.</p> <p>Recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and undeveloped coast and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services</p> <p>Protect and enhance the distinct identities and character of a settlement and its setting</p>	Goal 11: 11.4	Goal 10 Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

	<p>Conserve and enhance the landscape character, special characters and setting of the South Downs National Park</p> <p>Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light</p> <p>Conserve heritage assets and their settings and seek opportunities to enhance or better reveal the significance</p>		
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6.3. Scoring

- 6.3.1. To ensure scoring is robust, justified and transparent, a scoring system is proposed to appraise options against the framework and to give an indication as to whether they are likely to have a positive or negative significant effect:

Table 9: Scoring

++	Very positive effects – the option would significantly help in achieving the objective
+	Positive effect – the option would help in achieving the objective
/	Neutral effect – the option would neither help nor hinder the achievement of the objective
-	Negative effect – the option would be in conflict with the objective
--	Very negative effect – the option would be in significant conflict with the objective
?	Uncertain – more information needed
0	No effect likely – there is no relationship between the option and the objective

- 6.3.2. The SEA Regulations set criteria for determining the likely significance of effects. They are a combination of the magnitude of the Plan's effects, the sensitivity of the receiving environment, and effect characteristics (including probability, duration, frequency, reversibility, cumulative effects, transboundary effects, risks to human health or the environment, and the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects).
- 6.3.3. Given the uncertainties involved in predicting effects and limitations of the baseline information, there will inevitably be a need to make assumptions. Assumptions are made cautiously. Ultimately, the significance of an effect is a matter of judgement and justification will be included. In many instances, it may not be possible to predict significant effects, but it will be possible to comment on the merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

7. Site Assessment

7.1. Site Assessment Methodology

- 7.1.1. Potential sites for development will be identified through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and Calls for Sites. This means that there will likely be sites identified at different stages of the Local Plan process.
- 7.1.2. It should be noted that for the purposes of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, sites of less than 5 dwellings are excluded and this same approach has been taken in identifying potential sites for the Local Plan. This threshold is increased to 10 dwellings for those sites within the current Built Up Area Boundary to align with the definition of Major Development in the NPPF.
- 7.1.3. An initial stage of screening will be undertaken to identify and remove those potential sites which are located in areas where the NPPF recommends development should be restricted. These are as follows:
- habitats sites (and those sites listed in paragraph 181) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - land designated as Green Belt , Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a National Park (or within the Broads Authority) or defined as Heritage Coast (of which there is none within the Local Plan area);
 - irreplaceable habitats (which include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen);
 - designated heritage assets (and other heritage assets of archaeological interest referred to in footnote 68);
 - and areas at risk of flooding or coastal change (where identified as contrary to the flood risk vulnerability and flood zone compatibility table in the PPG). This has been defined as within Flood Zone 3b - the functional floodplain.
- 7.1.4. Alongside the SA framework are a series of quantitative and GIS criteria intended to provide an equal review of the constraints and opportunities associated with each potential site. It will provide a robust process to ensure each site is appraised against the framework in a consistent way. Regardless of when they are identified, all potential sites will be reviewed consistently using this criteria. This is set out in Table 10 below.
- 7.1.5. The site assessment criteria uses a 'mitigation off' approach which considers a development's potential effects based on location alone. It therefore deals with the merits of the existing site rather than with specific proposals for the site which will be considered and appraised through the main SA Framework.

Table 10: Sites Criteria

SA objective	Ref	Assessment factor	Purpose of assessment	Assessment method	Action
1. Biodiversity	1.1	Impact of development on LNR/LWS	Is the site within a 100m or 200m buffer of an LNR or LWS?	No - site not located within 200m of LNR and LWS	Green
				Yes - part of site is within buffer of 100-200m from an LNR or LWS	Orange
				Yes - majority of site is within buffer of 100m from an LNR and LWS	Red
	1.2	Ecological networks	Would development of the site be likely to result in adverse impacts for an identified ecological network	No - site not located in an identified network	Green
				Site is adjacent to an identified network	Orange
				Site is within an identified network	Red
	1.3	Priority habitats/ species	Would development of the site be likely to impact on priority habitats and species?	No - site does not contain priority habitat/species	Green
				Site is adjacent to or has priority habitats / species along boundaries	Orange
				Yes site contains priority habitats / species	Red

	1.4	Trees/ woodlands/ hedgerow	Would development of the site be likely to result in significant trees/woodlands or hedgerows being lost or adversely affected	No, trees or woodland present	Green
				Yes - trees / hedgerows along boundaries	Orange
				Yes - the site contains significant groups of trees and / TPOs	Red
	1.5	Impact of development on SSSI Impact Risk Zone	Is the site within an SSSI IRZ (for the type of development proposed)?	No - site is not within an IRZ for proposed development type	Green
				Yes - site is partially within an IRZ for the proposed development type	Orange
				Yes - all or majority of site is within an SSSI IRZ for the proposed development type	Red
	1.6	Water quality	Does the site include or is likely to affect a waterbody/watercourse	The site has a watercourse running through it	Red
				Yes - The site has a watercourse running along its boundary or adjacent to it	Orange
				No	Green
2. Climate change	2.1	Flood risk (tidal / fluvial)	Is the site at a risk of flooding now or in the future with CC?	Low risk	Green
				Medium risk	Orange
				High risk	Red
	2.2	Flood risk (surface water)	Is the site at a risk of flooding now or in the future with CC?	Low risk	Green
				Medium risk	Orange

				High risk	
3. Healthy communities	3.1	Water quality	Is the site within a Source Protection Zone?	No	
				Yes - within Source Protection Zone 2 or 3	
				Within SPZ1 or 4	
	3.2	Amenity issues	Is the site potentially constrained by an amenity related issue such as noise/odour from other nearby uses?	No	
				Yes - is within an area highlighted on defra noise maps	
				Yes - is likely to be significantly affected by noise	
	3.3	Accessibility to wider areas via public transport (rail)	Does the site provide easy access on foot to a railway station	Yes, within 800m (10 min walk)	
				Yes (between 800m - 1,600m (10 - 20 min walk))	
				No, greater than 1,600m (20 min walk)	
	3.4	Accessibility to local facilities and services	Is the proposed development within walking distance (800m) of a local, district or town centre	Yes - of a town centre	
				Yes - of a local shopping parade	
				No	
	3.5	Loss of local community facility	Would development of the site potentially result in the loss of an existing community facility	No	
				Site includes a community facility but it is no longer in active use or has been vacated.	

				Site includes an existing community facility in active use	
3.6	Accessibility to primary school	Does the site provide easy access on foot to a primary school	Yes, within 800m (10 min walk)		
			Yes (between 800m - 1,600m (10 - 20 min walk))		
			No, greater than 1,600m (20 min walk)		
3.7	Accessible Greenspace	How many of the Accessible Greenspace standards does the majority of the site meet?	The site is in an area where less than 80% of households meet scenarios 6 or 7.		
			Doesnt meet Scenario 6 but in Scenario 7 (partial combined) the site is within an area where over 80% of properties have access.		
			In Scenario 6 (combined) the site is within an area where over 80% of properties have access		
3.8	Loss of public open space	Would development potentially result in loss of public open space	No		
			The site is not considered to be public open space but there is a PROW running through the site which may be impacted		
			Yes the site is currently recognised as public open space		
3.9	Accessibility by walking/cycling	Does the site provide an opportunity to enhance the cycling	Development is located on the existing network		
			Development could provide opportunities to improve connectivity to the network		

			and walking network in Adur	Development is unrelated to the walking and cycling network	
4. Economy	4.1	Employment space	Is the site within a protected employment area	Yes	
				No - but the site is currently or was last in an employment use.	
				No	
	4.2	Surrounding land uses	Is the proposed development site likely to be compatible with surrounding land uses?	Yes	
				The site is not adjacent but is in the vicinity of a site with an Environmental Permit for waste operations or installations	
				The site is adjacent to a site with an Environmental Permit for waste operations or installations or is within a HSE consultation zone for a major hazard site.	
	4.3	Employment space	Is the site within a protected employment area	Yes	
				No - but the site is currently or was last in an employment use.	
				No	
	4.4	Town centre uses	Is the site within or adjacent to a town centre (as defined in the Adur Local Plan 2017)	Yes, the site is within a primary shopping area	
				Yes, the site is within a town centre but outside of the primary shopping area	
				No the site is outside of a town centre	

5. Regeneration	5.1	Contaminated land	Is the site potentially constrained by contamination; and, if so, to what extent?	Contaminated land is not suspected	Green
				The site is identified as potentially contaminated land due to historic uses	Orange
				The site has been identified as contaminated land (Part 2A)	Red
	5.2	Regeneration	Would development of the site make a positive contribution to the Council's regeneration objectives	Yes, located in an area of regeneration and in line with Councils objectives	Green
				Yes, located in an area of regeneration but in conflict with Councils objectives	Orange
				n/a not in an area of regeneration	White
	5.3	Urban area	Is the site within the current Built Up Area Boundary	Yes within the BUAB	Green
				No, but adjacent to the BUAB	Orange
				No, outside of the BUAB	Red
6. Landscape	6.1	Impact on the setting of the South Downs National Park	Would development of the site adversely affect the setting of the National Park	No site is not located near to the SDNP	Green
				Yes, site may form part of the wider setting of the SDNP	Orange
				Yes, site is immediately adjacent to the SDNP	Red
	6.2	Settlement coalescence	Would development of the site contribute to the coalescence of settlements	No, site is outside Local Green Gap	Green
				Yes, but significant visual gap is retained	Orange
				Yes, will significantly reduce the local green gap between settlements	Red

	6.3	Impact on countryside	Would development result in a loss of or impact on the character or beauty of the countryside	No site is not currently designated as countryside	Green
				Site is not designed as countryside but is outside of the current BUAB	Orange
				Site is currently designated as countryside	Red
	6.4	Agricultural land	Does the site contain land indicated as agricultural land	Includes Grade 1 agricultural land	Red
				Includes other grade agricultural land	Orange
				urban land	Green
	6.5	Landscape sensitivity	What is the landscape sensitivity of the site?	High or moderate - high	Red
				Moderate or Low - moderate	Orange
				Low or no sensitivity	Green
	6.6	Heritage assets	Would development of the site be likely to result in any harm to the significance of heritage assets, setting or wider historic environment?	No	Green
				Has the potential to affect heritage assets but the site makes very little or no contribution to significance.	Orange
				Has the potential to affect heritage assets	Red

- 7.1.6. The purpose of the assessment is not to exclude sites but instead to highlight the potential for significant effects and where additional evidence may be required to demonstrate a site is suitable or where mitigation may be necessary. Therefore the scoring does not indicate whether an allocation may or may not be suitable. Mitigation of significant negative effects of the plan and enhancement of positive effects are a key purpose of SA and the potential impacts of the site will need to be balanced against each other and considered as a whole.

7.2. Flood Risk Sequential Test

- 7.2.1. The NPPF explains the aim of the sequential test is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding from any source. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower risk of flooding.
- 7.2.2. All potential sites that have been identified and assessed using the criteria above will be included in the sequential test. This will be undertaken at the start of the process before any decisions have been made whether to allocate or not allocate sites. The test will be informed using evidence from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and will consider all sources of flooding and the future impacts of climate change.

8. Next Steps

8.1. Consultation

- 8.1.1. This Scoping Report will be subject to consultation for a 5 week period with the statutory consultation bodies identified in paragraph 2.1.8 as well as neighbouring authorities. Following the close of consultation, all comments will be considered and will help influence the final SA Framework.
- 8.1.2. The information contained in this report on the context, baseline and sustainability issues will also be used to form the basis of early community engagement on the key issues for the Local Plan to enable public participation on the SA at this stage.