

Re referenced as:

PELP30

# Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Statement for the Arun Local Plan



Environmental Planning  
Design & Management

## Introduction

1. Arun District Council (ADC) commissioned LUC in June 2016 to undertake a review of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging Arun Local Plan. To date, ADC has produced the following SA documents:
  - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Arun District Council Local Plan (2009) and Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (2012); and,
  - Arun Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal 2011-2031 Report (2014).
2. The Arun Local Plan and its associated Sustainability Appraisal were submitted to the government for examination in January 2015. In July 2015, the Inspector's preliminary examination findings in relation to Sustainability Appraisal suggested that a new, clear and simplified SA report would provide a more adequate approach.

*"...the SA process should be kept as simple and concise as possible. The full October 2014 document runs to over 1000 pages and its approach is highly complex, involving the comparison of policies, sites and locations against over 50 very different sub-objectives, all of which appear to be given equal weight in the scoring system. The whole presentation is unnecessarily difficult to navigate and the reasons for its decisions become obscured by excessive detail. A simplified SA, with less tabular content and a more coherent narrative, could provide a framework for an adequately clear audit trail of reasons for the choices made".* [Paragraph 7, Appendix 1, of the Inspector's Conclusions after the Procedural Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015<sup>1</sup>].
3. The Inspector also commented that the audit-trail of decision making was not clear (i.e. the reasons for selecting reasonable alternatives, preferred alternatives, and discounting alternatives). The Inspector suggested that suspension of the Examination in Public process for 15 months presents an opportunity for a new SA to be prepared which will provide a transparent comparative analysis of the reasonable alternatives for meeting the requirements of a higher objectively assessed need.
4. SA and SEA are separate processes but have similar aims and objectives. Simply put, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts. National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>2</sup> shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA/SEA process and presenting a single SA report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. An integrated approach is being taken to the SA and SEA of the Arun Local Plan, and the term 'SA' has been used throughout the SA/SEA work undertaken to date to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of SEA'.

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<sup>1</sup> IDED13-Letter-and-Appendix-1-28-July

<sup>2</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, 2015. *Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal*. Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/> [Accessed 16 June 2016]

5. Scoping is the first stage in the SA process, with the purpose of setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope of the SA. The tasks involved in the scoping stage include:
  - Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
  - Collecting baseline information.
  - Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
  - Developing the SA framework.
  - Consulting on the scope of the SA.
6. Owing to the fact that a detailed SA of the emerging Arun Local Plan has already been undertaken and due to the tight timeframe for completing the revised SA work within the suspended Examination, it is considered appropriate to set out the scope of this SA work for the Local Plan in the form of this 'Scoping Statement'.

### Background to Arun Local Plan Examination

7. The Arun Local Plan was submitted for Examination in January 2015. Following the preliminary Examination hearings and Procedural Meeting, and in particular as a result of the updated Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN) Report published by GL Hearn, on behalf of the Council, in March 2015 (which concluded more dwellings per annum [dpa] would be required than in the submitted Local Plan), the Inspector recommended that the Local Plan needed to be either withdrawn or Examination suspended in order to review the most appropriate spatial strategy to meet the updated OAN.
8. Following correspondence between the Inspector and the Council and the additional hearing session on the revised OAN held in January 2016, the Inspector agreed to formally suspend the Examination in February 2016<sup>3</sup> to enable the Council to carry out the programme of work required to review the most appropriate spatial strategy to meet the updated OAN (which the Inspector recommended should be 845 dpa).
9. As part of determining the most appropriate spatial strategy, Arun District Council is considering the following types of options that will be subject to SA by LUC:
  - **Strategic growth distribution scenarios** – ADC is considering five distribution options under four potential growth scenarios: 650; 758; 845 and 1,000 (as reported to the Local Plan Sub Committee 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 – Agenda Item 5 Additional Paper).
  - **Potential strategic growth locations** – ADC is considering 13 growth locations (as reported to the Local Plan Sub Committee 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 – Agenda Item 5 Additional Paper).
  - **Cross-boundary options** – the Inspector suggested that ADC should also take the opportunity during the suspended Examination to consider options for meeting some of the unmet housing need of neighbouring authorities. Out of the 13 potential growth locations to be appraised, those most suited to potentially meeting each of the neighbouring districts will be identified through a review of travel to work patterns and constraints mapping. Following this, the potential impacts of more housing being delivered at those locations to meet the relevant neighbouring authority's unmet need will be assessed.

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<sup>3</sup> ID18-OAN-Conclusions

- **Main Modifications** – once ADC has determined the most appropriate spatial strategy, and begun to propose main modifications to relevant parts of the Local Plan, each modified policy will be subject to SA, and the findings will be summarised. This will be described alongside a summary of the SA findings for the unchanged policies (taken from the 2014 SA Report).
10. In order to address the Inspector’s concerns regarding the audit-trail of decision making in the 2014 SA Report, it is proposed to include a separate chapter in the new SA Report that LUC will be preparing. From an initial review of the 2014 SA Report and the Inspector’s conclusions, the main deficiencies/concerns relate to how the spatial options considered prior to Submission were identified, appraised and their findings summarised in Chapter 8 of the 2014 SA Report. This work will be clarified and re-presented in a separate chapter of the new SA Report as a clear audit trail of the options that were considered at that final stage of the Arun Local Plan preparation before it was submitted, including an outline of the Council’s conclusions on preferred and discounted options.
11. The following approach is proposed to help improve the clarity of the SA findings, both for the relevant parts of the 2014 SA Report and for the new SA work still to be undertaken:
- Introduce a number of additional SA Headline Objectives to ensure coverage of each of the SEA topics (retaining the key issues covered by the original SA sub-objectives but re-grouped and streamlined as necessary to sit under relevant new Headline Objectives). This will enable the sustainability effects to be determined against a smaller number of Headline Objectives rather than for each of the 50+ sub-objectives, and will help to compare more clearly between options.
  - Summarise for each type of option being considered (i.e. overall quantum, overall spatial distribution, potential strategic development locations, growth scenarios associated with each development location):
    - Reasons for selecting the alternatives considered (e.g. different growth figures at each potential growth location).
    - The main SA findings for each alternative (focusing on potential significant effects).
    - Reasons for selecting the preferred alternative, and discounting the other alternatives (with input from ADC, as the SA findings are not the only reason why decisions are made regarding options to take forward).
12. The proposed revisions to the SA Framework are set out further ahead in this SA Scoping Statement.

### **Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS)**

13. Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires:
- (a) *“an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes”;* and
  - (b) *“the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”*
14. In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the Arun Local Plan.

15. The Arun Local Plan will identify where strategic development will take place in the District. It will also provide detailed planning policies that assist in the implementation of strategic policies and the development management process, covering topics such as employment, town centres, tourism, transport, housing, open space, sport and recreation, community facilities, sustainable construction and renewable energy, natural environment, built environment, green infrastructure, rural areas, and infrastructure.
16. At a sub-regional and local level there are some key plans and programmes that are specific to Arun and, in particular the neighbouring authorities of Chichester, Worthing and Adur, which provide context for the emerging Local Plan. These include plans and programmes relating to issues such as housing, health and well-being, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure. These will be relevant as they will assist in determining the most appropriate location and form of development (and therefore policies) required in the emerging Local Plan.
17. The most significant document in terms of the policy context for the SA Report is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The Arun Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
  - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
  - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
  - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
  - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
18. At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require SEA and HRA to be undertaken in relation to the emerging Local Plan. There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy; however the international directives will be included in the final SA report for completeness.
19. Since the 2014 SA Report a number of PPS have emerged which changes the context for the appraisal of the Local Plan. The full review of relevant PPS will be detailed in the SA report, and will include but will not be restricted to:
- Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 (2015);
  - Arun Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2015);
  - Arun to Pagham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2015);
  - Lidsey Surface Water Management Plan (2014);
  - South Downs Local Plan: Preferred Options (2015); and,

- Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement 2 (2016).

### Baseline information

20. Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them. Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:
- (a) *the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*
  - (b) *the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;*
  - (c) *any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].*
21. Baseline information that was collated for the original SA of the Local Plan will be used as the starting point to inform this new stage of SA work. However, it will be revised and updated to make use of the most recent available information sources in the full SA Report. In particular, the Council has commissioned a number of baseline evidence studies and updates to inform the modifications to the Local Plan, covering Habitats Regulations Assessment, housing, landscape, transport, flood risk, infrastructure, retail, and employment. These studies will be used to inform the SA. The following paragraphs provide a synopsis of the baseline social, economic and environmental trends that will be considered in the SA of the Arun Local Plan.
22. Arun District is one of seven districts within West Sussex and is bordered by Chichester District to the west, and Worthing Borough and Adur District to the east. The northern part of Arun District is within the planning jurisdiction of the South Downs National Park Authority. The District covers an area of 12,090 hectares (46 square miles) and has an estimated resident population of 149,518 people<sup>4</sup>.
23. The District's settlement hierarchy is dominated by the coastal towns of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. Bognor Regis and Littlehampton have merged with their neighbouring settlements to form larger built-up areas. In the west of the District, the Bognor Regis urban area includes the villages of Pagham, Aldwick, Bersted, Felpham and Middleton-on-Sea. East of the River Arun, Littlehampton, Rustington, East Preston and Kingston form a second built-up area. The rest of the District contains smaller villages and hamlets and is largely rural in character.
24. Transport links are dominated by east-west routes, particularly the A27 and A259, linking Arun with Worthing and Brighton to the east, and Chichester and Portsmouth to the west. The District is served by a rail line which connects the main towns along the south coast, while the Arun Valley Line provides a direct rail link to London, Central Sussex and Gatwick Airport.
25. Bognor Regis and Littlehampton are the main service, employment, retail and social centres in the District. However, the District experiences high levels of out-commuting with Chichester and Worthing acting as important employment, retail and entertainment centres. The District is relatively prosperous when compared to the national average but performs below average for the

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<sup>4</sup> 2011 Census population figure for Arun District.

South East region. The largest employment sectors within the District are distribution and hospitality, followed by public administration, education, care and health. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) account for the majority of the District's business establishments. Lack of employment is a particular issue in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with areas of these towns falling within the 10% most deprived of employment.

26. Arun District has one of the UK's highest populations of elderly people. Educational achievement in the District is relatively low. There are several areas which fall within the 10% most deprived areas in England in terms of barriers to housing and services. Average house prices in Arun's coastal towns are generally relatively low compared to neighbouring areas, but prices are significantly higher in Arundel and some inland villages. In general, the District has a relatively low incidence of crime, although crime rates are particularly high in parts of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton.
27. Arun District contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international and national importance which provide important habitats for wildlife. The District contains one site of international importance, Pagham Harbour, which has been designated as both a Special Protection Area and a Ramsar site. Sites of national importance include ten Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are also several sites of regional/local importance including Local Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, Local Wildlife Sites, and UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats.
28. The River Arun flows through several towns and villages in the District to join the English Channel at Littlehampton. In addition to this river, there are also several large streams and numerous smaller watercourses. The District is affected to varying degrees by all sources of flooding, although the major sources are fluvial, tidal, surface water, and ground water. There are a number of Source Protection Zones within the District to ensure that rivers and aquifers are protected from pollution.
29. There are many heritage designations within Arun District including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, as well as locally designated and undesignated features and assets. The town of Arundel, which is dominated by its cathedral and castle, is particularly renowned for its historic and cultural character.
30. The landscape of the district is divided into two National Character Areas – South Downs to the north, and the South Coast Plain to the south. There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the District. There are also no Air Quality Management Areas within the District, however, the A27 and A259 roads both suffer from severe congestion during peak times. The majority of land within Arun District comprises grade 3 agricultural land (good to moderate), although the District has a large resource of high quality agricultural land (grade 1 and 2) surrounding Westergate, Barnham, Yapton, Ford and Angmering. Land along the coastline is categorised as grade 7 (urban) whilst large swathes of land within the National Park are categorised grade 6 (non-agricultural).

## Key sustainability issues

31. Consideration of the policy context and baseline information enables the identification of key environmental and sustainability issues for Arun, which will need to be taken into account in the SA of the Arun Local Plan. These can be summarised as follows:

- As a coastal district, Arun is likely to experience **more extreme impacts as a result of climate change** – wetter winters with greater incidences of flooding; warmer, drier summers and shifting sea levels.
- Arun District contains **many areas of high ecological value** including sites of international and national importance. These are under threat from urban pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use.
- Arun District is at risk of all types of **flooding** but the main risks are associated with fluvial and tidal flooding.
- There are **areas of historic importance** in Arun that should be preserved and enhanced. These are continuously facing pressures for change.
- The area has a **high level of prime agricultural land** that is under pressure from development.
- Arun's **economic base is dependent on low paid sectors**. Wages are significantly below the regional average reflecting the higher proportion in lower skilled sectors.
- **Educational attainment in the area is low.**
- The age structure of the population currently shows a **higher than average level of retired people**, with a below average proportion of residents of working age. This has implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.
- **Arun's main town centres** of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton currently **lack a wide range of shopping, entertainment, employment and other facilities**, and therefore struggle to compete with neighbouring centres outside the District.
- House prices in the area are lower than the national average. There is a **shortfall in the supply of new housing and a need for affordable homes**. Due to Arun's environmental and infrastructure constraints, options for locating growth become limited.
- Generally Arun is not particularly deprived however **pockets of deprivation exist** with several areas falling within the 10% most deprived areas in terms of barriers to housing and services.
- Car ownership in the area is high, and there are **serious congestion problems** along the A27 and A259 due to high levels of out-commuting.

## SA Framework

### *Sustainability Appraisal Objectives*

32. The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA Framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared, with each proposal in the plan being scored against each SA objective. The SA

framework developed for the 2014 SA Report has been reviewed in light of comments made by the Inspector during the examination of the Arun Local Plan. The Inspector noted that the SA framework "involving the comparison of policies, sites and locations against over 50 very different sub-objectives" was "unnecessarily difficult to navigate and the reasons for its decisions became obscured by excessive detail" [Paragraph 7, Appendix 1, of the Inspector's Conclusions after the Procedural Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015].

33. LUC has undertaken a review of the framework in the 2014 SA report, increasing the total number of SA headline objectives from seven to 15. All of the topics specifically required by the SEA Regulations are clearly addressed by the headline SA objectives. They have been re-ordered to ensure that the headline objectives provide a clear and focused appraisal of each policy or proposal in the Arun Local Plan. The review of the SA objectives has sought to avoid duplication and any single SA objective covering too many issues (as this would result in mixed effects being identified for that SA objective, which makes comparison between scores for different options difficult). The SA headline objectives have been organised into three distinct groups covering social, environmental and economic issues. The number of sub-objectives has reduced from 51 to 40, but the topics covered by the sub-objectives are still all addressed within the revised headline and sub-objectives.
34. The proposed SA framework for the Arun Local Plan is presented in Table 0.1. The final column in the table demonstrates which SA objective addresses each of the topics that are required by the SEA Directive to be covered (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations).

**Table 0.1 SA Framework for the Arun Local Plan**

Headline SA Objective	Sub-objectives (Will the option, policy or site help to...?)	SEA Topics
<b>Social</b>		
1. Achieve successful and inclusive communities.	(a) Assist in reducing poverty and social exclusion in Arun. (b) Assist in reducing actual levels of crime and reducing the fear of crime. (c) Create more balanced communities where communities feel empowered.	Population Human health
2. Improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health	(a) Improve access to doctor's surgeries and health care facilities. (b) Encourage healthy lifestyle and provide opportunities for sport and recreation. (c) Reduce noise pollution.	Population Human health
3. Ensure the delivery of high quality, sustainably constructed, and affordable homes	(a) Contribute to meeting Arun's unmet housing requirements. (b) Increase the supply of affordable homes. (c) Encourage a mixed use and range of housing tenure. (d) Provide high quality and sustainably	Population Human health

Headline SA Objective	Sub-objectives (Will the option, policy or site help to...?)	SEA Topics
	constructed homes.	
4. Ensure that Arun provides excellent social infrastructure	(a) Provide good access to community services and facilities (e.g. employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces, and culture) decreasing the need to travel.	Population Human health
5. Improve the vibrancy of Arun's town centres.	(a) Contribute to regeneration objectives of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. (b) Promote development in key sectors (e.g. retail). (c) Provide, protect or enhance locations for cultural and leisure activities.	Population Human Health
6. Ensure efficient and sustainable movement within and beyond Arun.	(a) Promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel, particularly in areas of high congestion, including public transport, walking and cycling.	Human Health Air Climatic factors
<b>Environmental</b>		
7. Conserve and enhance Arun's biodiversity and geodiversity.	(a) Conserve and enhance biodiversity assets, and species diversity. (b) Minimise fragmentation of existing habitats and enhance, restore or create networks of habitats. (c) Protect, enhance or restore locally or nationally designated nature conservation and geological sites.	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
8. Maintain and improve water quality, and maximise water efficiency measures	(a) Improve the water quality of the district's rivers, coastline, and inland water. (b) Maximise water efficiency measures including enabling recycled water to be used. (c) Improve beach quality. (d) Improve the coastal protection standard of the area.	Water Climatic factors
9. Reduce flood risk.	(e) Reduce the risk of flooding from tidal, fluvial, and surface water sources. (f) Reduce the risk of inappropriate development in the flood plain.	Water Soil Climatic factors Human health
10. Reduce air pollution.	(a) Improve air quality particularly within identified AQMAs.	Air Climatic factors Human health

Headline SA Objective	Sub-objectives (Will the option, policy or site help to...?)	SEA Topics
11. Reduce soil degradation/contamination, and improve efficiency in land use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Ensure land is remediated where appropriate.</li> <li>(b) Reduce the loss of soil and high grade agricultural land to development.</li> <li>(c) Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings.</li> </ul>	Soil Climatic factors
12. Protect and enhance the historic environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Protect, enhance and restore Arun's designated heritage assets and their setting.</li> <li>(b) Preserve archaeological features.</li> </ul>	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
13. Maintain and enhance Arun's landscape character and quality.	(a) Protect, enhance, and restore the distinctive character of Arun's settlements <sup>5</sup> , built environment <sup>6</sup> and, landscapes <sup>7</sup> .	Landscape
14. Reduce the global, social and environmental impact of waste generation and consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Promote sustainable waste management practices through a range of waste management facilities.</li> <li>(b) Minimise waste disposal.</li> <li>(c) Promote the adoption of sustainable design and the use of locally and sustainably sourced, and recycled materials in construction and renovation.</li> <li>(d) Reduce carbon emissions from energy.</li> </ul>	Soil Climatic factors Material assets
<b>Economic</b>		
15. Ensure a diverse and thriving economic base to support Arun's growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Promote accessible employment opportunities.</li> <li>(b) Attract inward investment and encourage business start-ups and SMEs.</li> <li>(c) Strengthen the visitor economy in Arun.</li> <li>(d) Reduce inequalities in income levels.</li> <li>(e) Improve educational achievement and the skill base of the people of Arun.</li> </ul>	Population Human health Material assets

<sup>5</sup> For example, by preventing coalescence between settlements.

<sup>6</sup> For example, by enhancing townscape and public realm.

<sup>7</sup> For example, by improving the character of open spaces.

### Use of the SA framework

35. The findings of the SA of the options being considered for the Local Plan and then the Main Modifications will be presented in SA matrices, which will include a colour coded symbol showing the score for the option/site/policy against each of the 15 SA headline objectives along with a concise justification for the score given. The SA matrices will be presented as an appendix to the full SA report. Summaries of the findings for each component of the Local Plan will be described in the main body of the SA Report.
36. The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in the key below.

#### Key to SA scores

++	Significant positive effect likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain
+/-	Mixed effect likely

37. As noted above, a review of each type of the spatial options considered in Chapter 8 of the 2014 SA report will be undertaken. For each option the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, the main SA findings for each alternative, and the reasons for selecting preferred alternative and discounting other alternatives, will be provided. The review will identify information which should be included in the report and any additional work which may be needed in the subsequent SA report in order to meet the SEA/SA requirements, good practice and the Inspector's recommendations.
38. There are four sets of options that will be appraised in the new SA report. Each of the four sets of options will be approached by first appraising the relevant reasonable alternatives in SA matrices, scoring against each of the Headline Objectives only (but taking into account the likely effects on the relevant sub-objectives), and then summarising the potential effects identified. The four types of options include the potential strategic development locations, cross-boundary options, growth scenarios associated with each development location, and modified policies.

#### Proposed structure of the SA Report

39. A new SA report will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA report will be published for formal public consultation alongside the proposed Main Modifications to the Arun

Local Plan. It will be structured to meet all of the requirements of Annex 1 of the SEA Directive. The SA report will be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that it will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. It will include a non-technical summary and is likely to be structured as follows:

- **Summary** - a non-technical summary; a statement of the likely significant effects of the plan; a statement on the difference the process has made; how to comment on the SA report.
  - **Introduction** – purpose of SA and the SA report; Arun Local Plan objectives and an outline of its contents (including the components that have been appraised during the suspended Examination period); compliance with the SEA Directive.
  - **Relationship with other Plans, Programmes, or Strategies** – links to other strategies, plans and programmes and how these have been taken into account.
  - **Baseline information** - description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline; difficulties in data collection and its limitations; likely evolution without the Arun Local Plan.
  - **SA methodology** – description of the SA framework being used and the assessment of alternatives.
  - **Assessment of effects and audit trail of decision-making** – assessment of alternatives considered in 2014 SA Report, plus the 2016 alternatives for potential growth locations, the strategic growth distribution scenarios, cross-boundary options, and the modified policies against the SA objectives. Description of the reasons for selecting and discounting each option.
  - **Mitigation and enhancement** – proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.
  - **Monitoring** – a proposed framework for monitoring the significant effects identified.
40. The SA report will also include an appendix setting out the scoping consultation comments received and will provide an account of how these comments were addressed in the full SA report (e.g. any resulting amendments made to the SA objectives or baseline information).

### Consultation and Next Steps

41. The SEA Regulations require a local authority to consult the statutory environmental bodies (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) regarding the scope of an SA/SEA for a minimum of five weeks. On behalf of Arun District Council, LUC is now inviting comments on the scope of the SA as set out in this Scoping Statement, for the period from 24<sup>th</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016. In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:
- Whether there are any additional plans, programmes or strategies that are particularly relevant to the SA of the Arun Local Plan and should be reviewed.
  - Whether the baseline information referred to will provide a suitable baseline for the SA of the emerging Arun Local Plan.
  - Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues that should be included.
  - Whether the revised SA framework is appropriate in light of the Inspector’s recommendations and includes a suitable range of objectives.

42. Please return your comments by 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to Melissa Mc Ginley at:  
[Melissa.McGinley@landuse.co.uk](mailto:Melissa.McGinley@landuse.co.uk)

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	24/6/16	Final	Melissa Mc Ginley	Taran Livingston	Taran Livingston