

Lewes District Council – Cabinet meeting, 20th November 2012

Agenda item 9.1 - Lewes District Local Plan – Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document

Changes to the draft document following consideration by the Planning Committee South Downs National Park Authority.

On the 8th November, Members of the Planning Committee at the South Downs National Park Authority (NPA) considered the draft Joint Core Strategy, which is also to be considered by Lewes District Council Cabinet on the 20th November and the Full Council on the 5th December.

The NPA's Planning Committee resolved to "approve the Joint Lewes District Core Strategy for consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Plan) (England) Regulations 2012". This approval was granted on the condition that some minor modifications were made to the document prior to it being formally published for consultation. The minor modifications were required to address the following issues;

1. The need to make it clear that the projected growth in households is not going to lead to a significant population increase (due to falling household sizes).
2. The need for the Core Strategy to give greater recognition to the importance of agriculture in Lewes District.
3. The need for the Core Strategy to recognise the role that the NPA and Lewes District Council are taking in supporting the production of community-led plans (including Neighbourhood Plans). To also recognise that Ringmer Parish Council are well progressed with their Neighbourhood Plan and that this was one of the first 17 front-runners selected for neighbourhood planning.
4. The need to make greater reference to the South Downs National Park in Core Delivery Policies 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11.

Minor modifications to make

In order to address the issues identified above it is proposed that the following modifications are made to the draft Core Strategy Proposed Submission document (see Appendix A of Cabinet report item 9.1).

To address issue 1

Page 22 of the Core Strategy, first bullet point – delete the words "*population and*", so the bullet point reads "there is a requirement to bring forward sufficient land to meet the expected need for new homes arising from the future growth in households."

To address issue 2

Page 24, to add the following additional bullet point under the 'Protecting and enhancing the distinctive quality of the environment' heading – "*As well as accounting for approximately 2% of jobs in the district, agriculture also directly*

impacts upon the character and quality of the landscape. The challenge is therefore to ensure that agriculture and other rural enterprises can prosper in a way that benefits the character of the countryside.”

Page 75, para 7.41 – to split the paragraph in two (the first paragraph will end with the words “move-on space for small businesses that wish to expand”) and to add the following sentences to the end of the paragraph – *“Moving forward it will be important to recognise that agriculture will have a key role in how the rural economy performs, as well as how the valued landscape is managed and the biodiversity of the district is maintained and enhanced. To aid in this, farming enterprises, including diversification schemes, need to be supported to help maintain the viability of this important economic sector and secure the sustainable management of the land.”*

Page 77, Core Policy 4, point 5 – to delete the words *“including farm diversification schemes”* from the final sentence and add the following sentence at the end of point 5 - *“In addition, support will be given for farm diversification schemes and enterprises that help maintain the viability of farm businesses engaged in sustainable land management.”*

To address issue 3

Page 11, para 1.35 – to add the following additional wording to the end of the third sentence of the paragraph – *“as well as other community led plans, such as Parish Plans and Village Design Statements”*

Page 41, para 6.28 – to add the following sentence to the end of this paragraph – *“In such cases the National Park Authority and District Council will support the production of these plans as they will assist in delivering some of the strategic aims of this Core Strategy.”*

Page 56, para 6.75 – to add the following sentences to the end of this paragraph – *“It is expected that this planned housing growth will be detailed in the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan, which is one of the first 17 Neighbourhood Plans to be commenced in the country under the Governments Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard scheme. As a result, this plan is at quite an advanced stage in production.”*

To address issue 4

Page 67, Core Policy 1 – to add the following sentence to the end of the final paragraph on the page, *“In the National Park the focus will be on the provision of affordable housing to ensure that the needs of local communities in the National Park are met.”*

Page 46, Core Policy 2 – to add the following to the end of the final sentence in paragraph 1, *“and having due regard to the setting of the National Park and its Purposes and Duty.”*

Page 77, Core Policy 4 – to add the following sentence at the end of Paragraph 1, *“Within the SDNP the pursuit of National Park Purposes will be paramount.”*

Page 101, Core Policy 11 – to add the following sentence after bullet point i),
“Within the South Downs National Park shall be in accordance with the Park purposes and outside the SDNP that regard is had to the setting of the National Park and its purposes”.

In light of the above, the Core Strategy Proposed Submission document that Cabinet are recommended to recommend approval to Council will need to incorporate these changes.