

Appendix A

Strategic Environmental Assessment





West Sussex County Council

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Strategic Environmental Assessment:
Environmental Report





West Sussex County Council

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report

TYPE OF DOCUMENT (VERSION) PUBLIC

PROJECT NO. 70123384

OUR REF. NO. 001

DATE: FEBRUARY 2025



West Sussex County Council

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report

WSP

2 London Square
Cross Lanes
Guildford, Surrey
GU1 1UN

Phone: +44 148 352 8400

WSP.com

QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Remarks	Draft for Consultation	Accessible		
Date	February 2025	September 2025		
Prepared by	JH IE PD	JH IE PD DW		
Checked by	CT			
Authorised by	AP			
Project number	70123384			
Report number	001			
File reference				

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	OVERVIEW	1
1.2	LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	2
1.3	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	2
1.4	PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	5
2	WEST SUSSEX LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	6
2.1	BACKGROUND	6
2.2	OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES	6
3	IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND SEA OBJECTIVES	8
3.1	INTRODUCTION	8
3.2	BASELINE	8
3.3	REVIEW OF PLANS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES	8
3.4	SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES	9
3.5	SEA APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK	10
4	METHODOLOGY	12
4.1	INTRODUCTION	12
4.2	COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT	12
4.3	ASSESSMENT OF THE LFRMS AND ALTERNATIVES	12
4.4	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS	14
4.5	MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT MEASURES AND MONITORING	15
4.6	ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS	15
5	COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT LFRMS OBJECTIVES	16
5.1	INTRODUCTION	16

5.2	COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS	16
6	ASSESSMENT OF LFRMS	19
6.1	INTRODUCTION	19
6.2	SUMMARY OF LFRMS MEASURES AND ACTIONS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS	19
7	ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES	25
7.1	INTRODUCTION	25
7.2	ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE LFRMS MEASURES	25
8	CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT	28
8.1	INTRODUCTION	28
8.2	INTRA-PLAN EFFECTS	28
8.3	INTER-PLAN EFFECTS	30
9	MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MONITORING	34
9.1	MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES	34
9.2	MONITORING MEASURES	37
10	RECOMMENDATIONS	39
11	NEXT STEPS	40

TABLES

Table 1-1 - SEA Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	3
Table 1-2 - SEA Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	3
Table 1-3 - SEA Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report	4
Table 1-4 - SEA Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report (Current Stage)	4
Table 1-5 - SEA Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of the plan on the environment	5

Table 2-1 - LFRMS Objectives and Measures	7
Table 3-1 – Key Issues and Opportunities	9
Table 3-2 - SEA Framework	11
Table 4-1 – Key to Compatibility Assessment	12
Table 4-2 – Key to Effects and Significance	13
Table 4-3 - Key to Effects and Significance	14
Table 5-1 – Key to Compatibility Assessment	16
Table 5-2 – Compatibility Assessment	17
Table 6-1 – Significance of Effect	19
Table 6-2 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 1	20
Table 6-3 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 2	21
Table 6-4 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 3	22
Table 6-5 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 4	23
Table 6-6 - Assessment of Measures and Actions - Summary of Significant Effect Findings	24
Table 7-1 – Assessment of LFRMS Alternatives	26
Table 8-1 – Key to Cumulative Effects	28
Table 8-2 – Intra-Plan Effects	29
Table 8-3 - Sources of Inter-Plan Cumulative Effects	30
Table 8-4 – Inter-Project Effects	33
Table 9-1 Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring	35
Table 9-2 – Proposed Monitoring Measures	37
Table 9-3 - Additional Monitoring Measures	38
Table 10-1 – SEA Recommendations	39

FIGURES

Figure 1-1 - West Sussex County Council Boundary	1
--	---

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SEA ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

APPENDIX B: CONSULTATION COMMENTS

APPENDIX C: ASSESSMENT OF LFRMS MEASURES AND ACTIONS

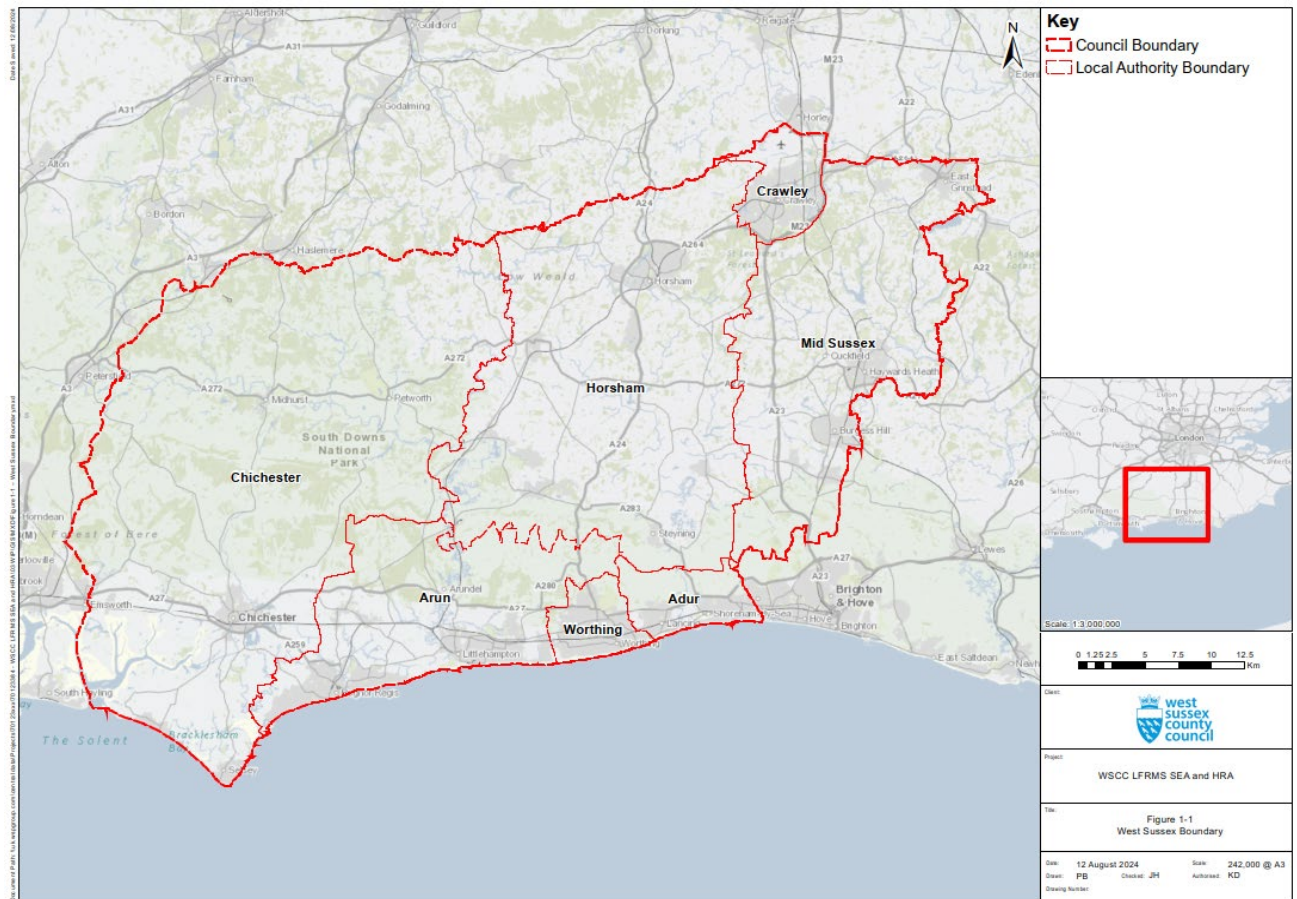
APPENDIX D: BASELINE, REVIEW OF PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) is in the process of preparing a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (hereafter referred to as the 'LFRMS'). The LFRMS was subject to public consultation in 2021 and was subsequently updated in December 2025. This will replace the existing WSCC LFRMS, which was agreed in 2013¹.
- 1.1.2. The LFRMS will cover WSCC's administrative boundary, including the district and borough councils of Adur and Worthing, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, and Mid Sussex. **Figure 1-1** shows the boundary for WSCC below.

Figure 1-1 - West Sussex County Council Boundary



¹ West Sussex County Council (2024) [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#).

1.2 LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- 1.2.1. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010² provides for better and more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, whilst helping to safeguard communities from rises in surface water and protecting water supplies.
- 1.2.2. The Act states that Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) are required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area.
- 1.2.3. WSCC is the LLFA for the administrative area of West Sussex and have determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for their LFRMS, having considered the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004³ (hereafter referred to as the 'SEA Regulations').

1.3 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 1.3.1. SEA is used to describe the application of environmental assessment to plans and programmes in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁴ (SEA Regulations).
- 1.3.2. SEA is mandatory for plans (including strategies) and programmes which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste or water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations⁵.
- 1.3.3. SEA is an iterative process of gathering data and evidence, assessment of environmental effects, developing mitigation measures and making recommendations to refine plans or programmes in view of the predicted environmental effects.
- 1.3.4. The SEA process is carried out during the preparation of certain plans and programmes. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which emerging plans will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives.
- 1.3.5. **Table 1-1** to **Table 1-5** below sets out the stages of the SEA process.

² [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#). (Accessed: 10/06/2024)

³ UK Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 1656, [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#). (Accessed: 10/06/2024)

⁴ UK Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 1656, [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#).

⁵ The [Town and Country Planning \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) Regulations 2017](#).

Table 1-1 - SEA Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

SEA Stage	Tasks	Purpose
A1	Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives to identify SEA objectives.	To establish how the Plan or programme is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed, and to help.
A2	Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives.
A3	Identifying environmental problems	To help focus the SEA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting of the SEA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring.
A4	Developing SEA objectives	To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the Plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.
A5	Consulting on the scope of SEA	To ensure that the SEA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the Plan or programme.

Table 1-2 - SEA Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

SEA Stage	Tasks	Purpose
B1	Testing the Plan or programme objectives against the SEA objectives	To identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the Plan or programme and the SEA objectives and help in developing alternatives.
B2	Developing strategic alternatives	To develop and refine strategic alternatives.
B3	Predicting the effects of the Plan or programme, including alternatives	To predict the significant environmental effects of the Plan or programme and alternatives.
B4	Evaluating the effects of the Plan or programme, including alternatives	To evaluate the predicted effects of the Plan or programme and its alternatives and assist in the refinement of the Plan or programme.

SEA Stage	Tasks	Purpose
B5	Mitigating adverse effects	To ensure that adverse effects are identified, and potential mitigation measures are considered.
B6	Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of plan or programme implementation	To detail the means by which the environmental performance of the Plan or programme can be assessed

Table 1-3 - SEA Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report

SEA Stage	Tasks	Purpose
C3	Preparing the Environmental Report (current stage)	To present the predicted environmental effects of the Plan or programme, including alternatives, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision-makers.

Table 1-4 - SEA Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report (Current Stage)

SEA Stage	Tasks	Purpose
D1	Consulting the public and Consultation Bodies on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report	To give the public and the Consultation Bodies an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the Environmental Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the Plan or programme. To gather more information through the opinions and concerns of the public.
D2	Assessing significant changes	To ensure that the environmental implications of any significant changes to the draft plan or programme at this stage are assessed and taken into account.
D3	Making decisions and providing information	To provide information on how the Environmental Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final form of the Plan or programme to be adopted.

Table 1-5 - SEA Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of the plan on the environment

SEA Stage	Tasks	Purpose
E1	Developing aims and methods for monitoring	To track the environmental effects of the Plan to show whether they are as predicted and to help identify adverse effects.
E2	Responding the adverse effects	To prepare for appropriate responses where adverse effects are identified.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.4.1. WSCC has commissioned WSP to undertake a SEA of the LFRMS.

1.4.2. This Environmental Report has been produced and published alongside the Draft LFRMS for consultation. The Environmental Report includes the following:

- **Chapter 2** – West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy;
- **Chapter 3** – Identification of Issues, Opportunities and SEA Objectives;
- **Chapter 4** – Methodology;
- **Chapter 5** – Compatibility Assessment of the LFRMS Objectives;
- **Chapter 6** – Assessment of the LFRMS;
- **Chapter 7** – Assessment of Alternatives;
- **Chapter 8** – Cumulative Assessment;
- **Chapter 9** – Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring;
- **Chapter 10** – Recommendations; and
- **Chapter 11** – Next Steps

2 WEST SUSSEX LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2.1 BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1. WSCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has a range of duties⁶ to manage local flood risk in the county in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). Local flooding is defined as flooding from surface water, ordinary watercourses, and groundwater; the management of these relies further on WSCC and Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), working in a collaborative manner.
- 2.1.2. As the LLFA, WSCC must produce a LFRMS to set out a strategy for managing local flood risk. This must be developed in accordance with the Environment Agency's National Strategy for Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. The LFRMS will replace the existing strategy which was adopted in 2013.

2.2 OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

- 2.2.1. The LFRMS sets the direction of travel for managing flood risk long term, with objectives, measures and actions for the first five years. This will outline clear priorities on how local flood risk will be managed by WSCC and other RMAs. This strategy also considers the impact of climate change on flooding in the future and attempts to minimise these risks.
- 2.2.2. The aims of the strategy are:
- To meet the statutory duties of an LLFA under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010);
 - To provide an understanding of local flood risk within West Sussex, using knowledge from all RMAs and stakeholders;
 - To ensure RMAs have a mechanism to work together effectively to understand and deliver appropriate flood risk management; and
 - To set objectives, measures and actions to effectively manage flood risk in West Sussex, addressing other societal or environmental objectives where possible.
- 2.2.3. Once the new Strategy is approved, it will replace the current LFRMS and act as a working document for flood risk management tasks.
- 2.2.4. **Table 2-1** outlines the LFRMS Objectives and Measures. Details of the proposed Actions can be found in **Appendix C**.

⁶ Statutory Duties for the LLFA: [Managing flood risk: roles and responsibilities | Local Government Association](#)

Table 2-1 - LFRMS Objectives and Measures

Objective	Measures
Objective 1: Use a catchment-based approach to understand and manage flood risk.	1.1 - Establish a clear understanding of flood risk across West Sussex by catchment 1.2 - Utilise the best available data to prioritise flood risk management schemes 1.3 - Develop collaborative opportunities for sharing data
Objective 2: Create a common, informed framework for sustainable development that improves safety and resilience for people, property, infrastructure, and the environment through long-term thinking.	2.1 - Promote a consistent approach across local planning authorities 2.2 - Align and integrate with Local Nature Recovery strategies and biodiversity projects to maximise delivery of co-benefits
Objective 3: Adopt collaborative approaches to understanding and managing flood risk assets and systems, prioritising the implementation of nature-based solutions.	3.1 - Improve collaboration with partners in asset management 3.2 - Improve how we manage existing assets 3.3 - Support the implementation of nature-based Solutions
Objective 4: Empower our communities to increase their resilience and ability to adapt to flood risk now, and in the future	4.1 - Create mechanisms for communities to influence flood risk management 4.2 - Improve understanding and adoption of flood preparedness at a community scale

3 IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND SEA OBJECTIVES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1. This section sets out the sustainability issues and opportunities for the LFRMS and the SEA Framework, against which the LFRMS has been assessed.
- 3.1.2. A Scoping Report, in support of the emerging LFRMS, was produced by WSP in August 2024. This report reviewed relevant legislation, plans, and programmes baseline, identified baseline information as well as key issues and opportunities for the LFRMS and identified an assessment framework.
- 3.1.3. The Scoping Report was be consulted on with the Statutory Consultees (Natural England, Environment Agency, and Historic England) from October 2024 to November 2024. Responses received from statutory consultees, have been set out in **Appendix B**.

3.2 BASELINE

- 3.2.1. The Scoping Report outlined the state of the current and future (without the implementation of the LFRMS) baseline for West Sussex for the following SEA Topics:
 - Population and Equalities;
 - Human Health;
 - Economy;
 - Biodiversity;
 - Landscape and Townscape;
 - Historic Environment;
 - Water Environment;
 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
 - Climatic Factors; and
 - Material Assets.
- 3.2.2. Full details on the baseline information is set out in **Appendix D**. The air quality and greenhouse gas emissions topic was scoped out of the SEA as it was determined that the LFRMS is unlikely to have a significant effect upon this topic.

3.3 REVIEW OF PLANS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

- 3.3.1. A plan may be influenced in various ways by other plans, policies or programmes, or by external environmental protection objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. These relationships enable the Responsible Authority to take advantage of potential synergies and to deal with any inconsistencies and constraints.
- 3.3.2. The Scoping Report undertook an initial review of policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives that may have an impact on the preparation of relevant policies being reviewed as part of the LFRMS update. This review has informed both the development of the LFRMS and the SEA framework.
- 3.3.3. Full details on the review of plans, policies and programmes is set out in **Appendix D**.

3.4 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

3.4.1. Informed by the policy context and baseline information, the Scoping Report identified a number of key issues and opportunities under each SEA topic, see **Table 3-1** below.

Table 3-1 – Key Issues and Opportunities

SEA Topic	Issues and Opportunities
Population and Equalities	- There is anticipated to be a population growth by 2030. - With an increasing ageing population across WSCC, there is likely to be additional strain on the region's services and infrastructure, including during flood events. - There are opportunities to reduce and manage flood risk for the elderly and rural communities. - There is often an inequality in terms of social deprivation and flood risk exposure from all sources of flooding.
Human Health	- The population of WSCC is expected to continue to increase which may place additional strain on services and infrastructure. - The main health risks of flooding include physical injury, or an increased risk of developing skin or gut infections through contact with contaminated food water. Longer-term effects can include mental health problems and chest problems due to exposure to mould and damp - There are a variety of secondary stressors that flooding can introduce on individuals. - There are large disparities for life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas.
Economy	- The employment rate has increased, and the economic inactivity rate has decreased, indicating economic growth. - There is the potential for increased strain to support non-working age people as the population of those aged 65 and over increases. - There is opportunity to support the growing economy and achieve WSCC's economic vision, by protecting local businesses from flooding.
Biodiversity	- Climate change and reduced water quality will put strains on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. - Given that ecosystem services are the benefits that nature provides to people, areas of high (potential) provision are often the green and blue spaces close to centres of population, as well as connecting habitats that link these with more remote designated habitats and landscapes. - There is a need to working towards halting the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042.
Landscape and Townscape	- Climate change may have an impact on landscape features such as drying out reservoirs, reducing the volume of water in rivers and increasing the frequency and intensity of flood events. - The expected population growth will be driving the need for additional homes and facilities. - There are land management issues in the National Park particularly on biodiversity from agricultural change, local development, climate change and the spread of invasive non-native species.

SEA Topic	Issues and Opportunities
Historic Environment	- Future growth and development have the potential to affect the survival, fabric, condition and setting of cultural heritage assets (both above and below ground). - An increase in rainfall, extreme weather events and flooding may result in irreplaceable damage, degradation and/or erosion of heritage and archaeological sites.
Water Environment	- The effects from climate change on increased flooding and drought on WSCC's water sources. - Potential for the use of groundwater sources, which could affect nearby receptors that are dependent upon groundwater, including groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems, watercourses, and existing groundwater abstractions. - Reduced water quality could have significant adverse effects on dependant ecosystems. - The physical and chemical quality of water resources is an important aspect of the natural environment and can be adversely affected by pollution associated with surface water runoff from new or existing transport infrastructure, as well as by changes to waterbodies which can affect their quality as a habitat.
Climatic Factors	- The risk from greater flood events remains a key climate risk in WSCC with a greater risk from future predicted heavy precipitation within the winter months, and a greater risk of more intense storms during the summer months. - The extent of future climate change will be strongly affected by the amount of greenhouse gases emitted. - The risk of future flooding events will cause significant damage. - Future precipitation changes will have significant impacts on human health and wellbeing and the natural capital in West Sussex.
Material Assets	- The risk from greater flood events remains a key climate risk in WSCC with a greater risk from future predicted heavy precipitation within the winter months. - The extent of future climate change will be strongly affected by the amount of greenhouse gases emitted. - The risk of future flooding events will cause significant damage. - Future precipitation changes will have significant impacts on human health and wellbeing and the natural capital in West Sussex.

3.5 SEA APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

- 3.5.1. The SEA Appraisal Framework objectives provided in **Table 3-2** relate solely to SEA issues 'scoped in' to the assessment. The SEA objectives and associated indicators have been derived from the baseline data, issues and opportunities and the review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes.

Table 3-2 - SEA Framework

SEA Topic	SEA Objective	Supporting Appraisal Questions – Will the policy/ intervention...
Population and Equalities Human Health	SEA1: To increase and enhance flood protection to meet both the current and future demographic changes and protect and enhance human health, quality of life and wellbeing.	- Support future population growth? - Protect and enhance recreational amenity and public access? - Will avoid negative effects on human health or quality of life, e.g. noise and air pollution? - Support community engagement initiatives? - Reduce levels of distress caused by flooding? - Reduce levels of inequalities in terms of exposure to flooding?
Economy	SEA2: To increase levels of flood protection and resilience for local businesses and the local economy.	- Provide greater protection to businesses and owners? - Reduce economic damage?
Biodiversity	SEA3: To protect and enhance protected habitats, species and valuable ecological networks that contribute to ecosystem functionality, contributing to biodiversity net gain.	- Cause damage to locally, nationally and internationally designated sites? - Maintain and enhance biodiversity? - Seek opportunities for biodiversity net gain? - Prevent fragmentation of habitats and promote ecological networks? - Result in developments which will improve biodiversity on site?
Landscape and Townscape	SEA4: To protect and enhance West Sussex’s townscapes and landscapes, including both the rural and urban environments.	- Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness? - Achieve high quality sustainable design? - Improve the quality and condition of the townscape, seascape and landscape?
Historic Environment	SEA5: To protect and enhance the historic environment, including heritage assets (designated and non-designated) and their unique settings.	- Conserve and/or enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? - Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness?
Water Environment	SEA6: To maintain and enhance the quality of surface and groundwater. SEA7: To reduce the risk and vulnerability to flooding	- Support the protection and enhancement of water bodies? - Reduce the risk to flooding? - Affect WFD compliance? - Support the objectives in the River Basin Management Plans and/or Shoreline Management Plans (where relevant)?
Climatic Factors	SEA8: Minimise the potential impact of flooding to transport and other critical infrastructure, both at present and in the future, ensuring that infrastructure is resilient to the effects of climate change and supports low carbon energy efficient design.	- Reduce the risk to flooding? - Affect the resilience of assets and infrastructure to climate change? - Increase levels of embodied carbon?
Material Assets	SEA9: To protect and enhance geology, geomorphology, mineral resources and the quality of soils.	- Support the use of sustainable materials? - Minimise the amount of waste? - Make use of existing infrastructure? - Will it avoid damage to geologically important sites? - Protect agricultural land? - Will it protect, maintain and enhance the health and function of soils?

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1. SEA is a systematic process that is undertaken during the preparation of a plan. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing environmental, social, and economic impacts, as well as mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have.

4.1.2. This Chapter sets out the methodology used and is structured as follows:

- Compatibility assessment;
- Assessment of the LFRMS and alternatives;
- Proposed measures;
- Alternative measures;
- Cumulative Effects; and
- Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring Measures.

4.2 COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT

4.2.1. Testing the compatibility of the LFRMS's Objectives against the SEA Appraisal Framework help to identify both potential synergies and inconsistencies. This information can help in developing and refining the objectives of the LFRMS. See **Section 5** for further details. **Table 4-1** below sets out the key to compatibility assessment.

Table 4-1 – Key to Compatibility Assessment

Effect	Key
Compatible	✓
Incompatible/ potential conflict	x
No relationship	0
Uncertain relationship	?

4.3 ASSESSMENT OF THE LFRMS AND ALTERNATIVES

4.3.1. This sections sets out the methodology for the the assessment of the draft LFRMS and reasonable alternatives against the SEA Framework of objectives identified within the Scoping Report (Stage A) and in Table 3-2 of this Report.

4.3.2. The assessment considered the following effects:

- Overall effect significance (negative, positive, uncertain, potential for both negative and positive effect or negligible)
- Magnitude of effects (high, medium, low):

- High: Likely total loss of or major alteration to the receptor in question. The effects are predicted to be permanent and irreversible.
 - Medium: Partial loss of/alteration/improvement to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the receptor in question. The effects are predicted to be medium-long term but often reversible.
 - Low: Minor loss/alteration/improvement to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the receptor in question. The effects are often predicted to be reversible and short term.
- Nature of effect (direct, indirect)
 - Spatial Extent (local, regional, national)
 - Reversibility of effect:
 - Reversible: The receptor can return to baseline condition without significant intervention
 - Irreversible: The receptor would require significant intervention to return to baseline condition
 - Duration (short, medium or long term):
 - Short term: 1-3 years
 - Medium term: 4-6 years (this strategy cycle)
 - Long term: 6-10 years (beyond the LFRMS period).

4.3.3. **Table 3-2** sets out the key to effects and significance that will be used within the assessment.

Table 4-2 – Key to Effects and Significance

Effect Significance	Key
Potential for significant positive effects	++
Potential for minor positive effects	+
Potential for minor negative effects	-
Potential for significant negative effects	--
Uncertain effects – Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the appraisal at this stage	?
Potential for both positive and negative effects	+/-
Negligible / No effect	0
Magnitude (High, Medium or Low)	H / M / L
Nature of effect (direct / indirect)	D / I
Spatial Extent (local – borough wide / regional – South Wales / national - Wales)	L / R / N

Effect Significance	Key
Reversibility of effect (reversible / irreversible)	R / I
Permanence (Permanent / Temporary)	P / T
Duration (short / medium / long term)	ST / MT / LT

- 4.3.4. It should be noted that where uncertain and negligible effects have been identified, it has not been possible to determine the nature of effect, the spatial extent, the reversibility or the duration of effect. In this instance, these cells have been left blank.

4.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 4.4.1. The SEA Regulations require that cumulative effects are considered when identifying likely significant effects. Therefore, a number of plans and policies (local, regional and national) have been reviewed for potential cumulative effects in addition to potential cumulative effects that could occur alongside the implementation of the draft LFRMS.
- 4.4.2. In addition, the assessment of sites has considered the cumulative effects of neighbouring development sites, including those beyond the borough boundary.
- 4.4.3. The assessment of cumulative effects has been presented in **Section 8** of this report. **Table 4-3** outlines the key to effects utilised for the cumulative effects assessment. This utilises the same assessment criteria as has been used for the assessment of proposed and alternative measures.

Table 4-3 - Key to Effects and Significance

Effect Significance	Key
Potential for significant positive effects	++
Potential for minor positive effects	+
Potential for minor negative effects	-
Potential for significant negative effects	--
Uncertain effects – Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the appraisal at this stage	?
Potential for both positive and negative effects	+/-
Negligible / No effect	0

4.5 MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT MEASURES AND MONITORING

- 4.5.1. The SEA Regulations require that mitigation measures are considered to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment as a result of implementing the plan. The measures are known as ‘mitigation’ measures.
- 4.5.2. Mitigation measures have been identified in relation to the assessment of policies, place visions, site allocations and site alternatives. These include both proactive avoidance of adverse effects and actions taken after potential effects have been identified. These are set out in **Section 9** of this report.
- 4.5.3. **Section 9** also includes enhancement measures, which aim to optimise positive impacts and enhance sustainability. The mechanism for delivery will ensure the promotion, prevention, reduction and offset of any significant adverse effects or enhancement opportunities on the environment.
- 4.5.4. The SEA Regulations also require that monitoring is undertaken on a plan so that the significant effects of implementation can be identified, and remedial action imposed. The purpose of the monitoring is to provide an important measure of the sustainability outcome of the final strategy, and to measure the performance of the plan against sustainability objectives and targets. Monitoring is also used to manage uncertainty, improve knowledge, enhance transparency and accountability, and to manage sustainability information.

4.6 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- 4.6.1. The preparation of the LFRMS alongside the SEA has allowed an iterative process of assessment and refinement in the narrative and policies within the Plan. Therefore, some of the recommendations set out in this report may already have been addressed in the LFRMS.
- 4.6.2. The assessment of objectives and measures have been undertaken as a desk-based exercise using the baseline information from the Scoping Report. No site visits have been undertaken specifically for the purposes of the SEA.
- 4.6.3. WSP have ensured that effects are predicted accurately; however, this can be challenging given limited understanding of precisely how the strategy will be implemented. Given uncertainties there is inevitably a need to make some assumptions, however, these are made carefully and explained in detail within the assessment text.
- 4.6.4. In some instances, given reasonable assumptions, it is not possible to predict ‘significant effects’, but it is possible to comment on the potential positive and negative effects of the draft plan and its alternatives in more general terms.

5 COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT LFRMS OBJECTIVES

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1. This section presents the compatibility analysis of the LFRMS objectives against the SEA Framework objectives to identify both potential synergies and inconsistencies. This information can help in developing and refining the objectives of the LFRMS.
- 5.1.2. **Table 5-1** below sets out the key to appraisal, whilst **Table 5-2** overleaf sets out the findings of the compatibility testing of the LFRMS objectives.

Table 5-1 – Key to Compatibility Assessment

Effect	Key
Compatible	✓
Incompatible/ potential conflict	✗
No relationship	0
Uncertain relationship	?

- 5.1.3. The objectives of the LFRMS are as follows:
1. Use a catchment-based approach to understand and manage flood risk.
 2. Create a common, informed framework for sustainable development that improves safety and resilience for people, property, infrastructure, and the environment through long-term thinking.
 3. Adopt collaborative approaches to understanding and managing flood risk assets and systems, prioritising the implementation of nature-based solutions.
 4. Empower our communities to increase their resilience and ability to adapt to flood risk now, and in the future.

5.2 COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- 5.2.1. **Table 5-2** overleaf shows the compatibility assessment of LFRMS objectives against the SEA objectives.

Table 5-2 – Compatibility Assessment

Objective	SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	SEA2: Economy	SEA3: Biodiversity	SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	SEA5: Historic Environment	SEA6: Water Environment	SEA7: Flood Risk	SEA8: Climatic Factors	SEA9: Material Assets
Objective 1: Use a catchment-based approach to understand and manage flood risk.	✓	✓	0	?	?	✓	✓	✓	?
Objective 2: Create a common, informed framework for sustainable development that improves safety and resilience for people, property, infrastructure, and the environment through long-term thinking.	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
Objective 3: Adopt collaborative approaches to understanding and managing flood risk assets and systems, prioritising the implementation of nature-based solutions.	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	?
Objective 4: Empower our communities to increase their resilience and ability to adapt to flood risk now, and in the future.	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	0

- 5.2.2. **Table 5-2** above shows that none of the objectives were identified as incompatible. Understandably, SEA7 (flood risk) was the most compatible, showing alignment with all proposed objectives. Similarly, due to the protection offered from flooding and the cross-cutting nature of flood risk, SEA1 (population, equalities and human health) has been deemed to be compatible with all LFRMS objectives.
- 5.2.3. SEA2 (economy) and SEA8 (climatic factors) are also considered to be compatible with all objectives, as they will increase understanding, preparedness and resilience, particularly to climate change, which is likely to offer greater protection to both businesses (and business owners) as well as critical infrastructure.
- 5.2.4. SEA6 (water environment) is considered to be compatible with all objectives through the reduction in flood risk from increased resilience measures and working with partners, indirectly improving water quality.
- 5.2.5. However, due to the high-level nature of these objectives, it is not clear whether these will support infrastructure, which could result in the loss of land and/or the degradation of the landscape and townscape character, the historic environment, or biodiversity. Due to this, uncertain effects have been identified for landscape and townscape (SEA4), historic environment (SEA5), biodiversity (SEA3), and material assets (SEA9).

6 ASSESSMENT OF LFRMS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1. The assessment of the LFRMS measures and actions are summarised below and presented in full in **Appendix C**. A matrix approach has been used for the assessment which has used the significance criteria identified in **Table 6-1** below.
- 6.1.2. **Table 6-2** overleaf provides an overview on the performance of the LFRMS measures and actions against each SEA objective and **Table 6-3** outlines significant effects based on each SEA objective. For the purpose of the SEA, significant effects are deemed to be the following:
- Significant Positive effects;
 - Significant Negative effects; and
 - Uncertain effects.
- 6.1.3. Further details on the insignificant effects i.e., minor positive, minor negative, mixed and neutral effects are detailed in **Appendix C**. The Appendix also sets out the nature of effects such as magnitude, spatial extent and duration.

Table 6-1 – Significance of Effect

Effect Significance	Key
Potential for significant positive effects	++
Potential for minor positive effects	+
Potential for minor negative effects	-
Potential for significant negative effects	--
Uncertain effects – Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the appraisal at this stage	?
Potential for both positive and negative effects	+/-
Negligible / No effect	0

6.2 SUMMARY OF LFRMS MEASURES AND ACTIONS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- 6.2.1. **Table 6-2** to **Table 6-5** below sets out the overview of effects from the assessment of measures and actions.

Table 6-2 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 1

Measure	Action	SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	SEA2: Economy	SEA3: Biodiversity	SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	SEA5: Historic Environment	SEA6: Water Environment	SEA7: Flood Risk	SEA8: Climatic Factors	SEA9: Material Assets
1.1 - Establish a clear understanding of flood risk across West Sussex by catchment	1.1.1 - Refine a process to maintain historic flood risk data register in a mapping platform, looking at all flood sources 1.1.2 - Develop catchment management plans for each catchment, delivery to be prioritised by action 1.2.3 1.1.3 - Maintain a central point of collaboration between river trusts and partnerships.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
1.2 - Utilise the best available data to prioritise flood risk management schemes	1.2.1- Review and analyse all data received as part of the public engagement survey, including GIS mapping 1.2.2 - Use all available data and a consistent risk driven approach for each catchment to identify priority areas. 1.2.3 - Subject to funding, undertake local studies and assessments and generate new flood risk data to support strategic decision making. 1.2.4 - Where suitable locations are identified, develop business cases to support funding of improvement schemes. 1.2.5 – Conclude work on projects to reduce flood risk in Angmering, Parklands (West of Chichester), and Hassocks	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
1.3 - Develop collaborative opportunities for sharing data	1.3.1 - Establish a report my flood system in addition to the system for reporting highway flooding, for local communities and partners. 1.3.2 - Hold flood meetings twice a year, to be attended by all RMAs to encourage collaboration across partnerships. 1.3.3 - Develop a programme tracker for all ongoing or planned flood risk management projects across all RMAs in West Sussex.	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+

Table 6-3 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 2

Measure	Action	SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	SEA2: Economy	SEA3: Biodiversity	SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	SEA5: Historic Environment	SEA6: Water Environment	SEA7: Flood Risk	SEA8: Climatic Factors	SEA9: Material Assets
2.1 - Promote a consistent approach across local planning authorities	2.1.1 - Review and update standard flooding and drainage guidance and advice for developers 2.1.2 - Provide SuDS and drainage training for for planning officers and local members. 2.1.3 - Promote the chargeable pre-application service on sustainable drainage and local flood risk management for new development proposals 2.1.4 - Produce standard conditions on flooding and drainage for all planning authorities, including consideration of drainage implications within minor development	+	+	?	0	0	+	+	+	+
2.2 - Align and integrate with Local Nature Recovery strategies and biodiversity projects to maximise delivery of co-benefits	2.2.1 - Engage with WSCC services and partner organisations to establish synergies and opportunities for nature recovery by collating ongoing projects and strategies. 2.2.2 - Promote the wider biodiversity benefits from SuDS and nature-based flood alleviation with updated online resources signposting to best practice and information shares at stakeholder meetings.	0	0	++	+	+	++	++	0	+

Table 6-4 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 3

Measure	Action	SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	SEA2: Economy	SEA3: Biodiversity	SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	SEA5: Historic Environment	SEA6: Water Environment	SEA7: Flood Risk	SEA8: Climatic Factors	SEA9: Material Assets
3.1 - Improve collaboration with partners in asset management	3.1.1 - Consolidate partnership working via a formalised collaboration agreement or MOU. 3.1.2 – Working with partners, consolidate a spatial mapping application to map flood risk management assets across the county. 3.1.3 - Engage relevant stakeholders in asset management conversations to encourage consistent record keeping.	+	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	+
3.2 – Improve how we manage existing assets	3.2.1 - Complete digitisation of highway asset data. 3.2.2 - Adopt EA T98 condition grading system for inspecting assets affecting local flood risk (e.g. ditches, culverts and outfalls). 3.2.3 – Agree methodology for defining priority assets, and undertake and record inspections of those assets, once identified. 3.2.4 - Following the completion of 3.1.2 undertake gap analysis to identify missing or poor-quality asset data. 3.2.5 - Implement programme of remedial or risk management projects for relevant high-risk assets, where cost-benefit justification exists. 3.2.6 - Explore the feasibility of smart sensor implementation across WSCC highways and FCERM drainage assets and undertake initial pilot project(s).	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	+/-
3.3 - Support the implementation of Nature Based Solutions	3.2.1 - Educate communities and stakeholders on the benefits of nature-based solutions through online resources and in person meetings 3.2.2 - Review and document barriers to implementation of nature-based solutions 3.2.3 - Signpost and consolidate national and county-scale best practice nature-based solutions projects	+/-	+/-	++	++	+	++	++	?	+

Table 6-5 – Assessment of LFRMS Objective 4

Measure	Action	SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	SEA2: Economy	SEA3: Biodiversity	SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	SEA5: Historic Environment	SEA6: Water Environment	SEA7: Flood Risk	SEA8: Climatic Factors	SEA9: Material Assets
4.1 - Create mechanisms for communities to influence flood risk management	4.1.1 - Identify the significant landowners, community groups, stakeholders by catchment 4.1.2 - Engage with identified landowners regarding riparian watercourse management responsibilities, requirement for watercourse consents and best practice agricultural land management to influence surface water runoff. 4.1.3 - Continue focused enforcement by Riparian Drainage Project Officers of riparian asset owners to ensure watercourses which are contributing to highway flooding are maintained. 4.1.4 - Develop a flooding toolbox regarding guidance and communication material for Parish Councils. 4.1.5 - Promote and advocate for community flood wardens within 'at-risk' communities, through coordinated engagement activities such as Parish Council Meetings 4.1.6 - Continued promotion and collaboration of Operation Watershed to deliver community-led flood projects	++	?	0	0	0	++	++	+	?
4.2 - Improve understanding and adoption of flood preparedness at a community scale	4.2.1 - Signpost guidance for community-level preparedness in vulnerable areas, including property level resilience on WSCC website and community hubs 4.2.2 - Attend community events via collaboration with WSCC Engagement and Communities teams and encourage attendance of RMAs 4.2.5 - Collaborate with schools to develop awareness around flood risk through STEM events 4.2.6 - Implement learning outcomes from the Rapid Adaptation Pathway Assessment pilot study for better adaptation planning	+	+	0	0	?	0	+	+	?

Table 6-6 - Assessment of Measures and Actions - Summary of Significant Effect Findings

SEA Objective	++	--	?	Application of Existing LFRMS Summary of Effects
SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	1	0	0	The majority of actions have resulted in minor positive effects on population and human health. These have been identified where actions support community and partnership engagement and collaboration, building flood resilience. Full details of the assessment can be found in Appendix C . One measure and associated actions (Measure 4.1) is anticipated to have significant positive effects upon population and human health, due to community engagement initiatives and continually using Operation Watershed which supports funding for improved drainage infrastructure. This will likely reduce flood inequalities and distress caused by flooding whilst improving community resilience.
SEA2: Economy	0	0	1	The majority of measures and actions have resulted in minor positive effects upon economy. Full details of the assessment can be found in Appendix C . Uncertain effects have been identified for one measure (Measure 4.1) as it is currently unclear whether engagement with stakeholders will include local businesses.
SEA3: Biodiversity	2	0	1	Two measures and associated actions (Measure 2.2 and 3.3) have resulted in potential significant positive effects upon biodiversity. Measure 2.2 is likely to enhance biodiversity within West Sussex by engaging with ongoing biodiversity projects and promoting SuDS that will encourage new species and habitats, resulting in benefits to both biodiversity and ecosystem services. Measure 3.3 supports the implementation of nature-based solutions which may encourage more diverse habitats within West Sussex. One measure and its actions have resulted in uncertain effects upon biodiversity. This has been identified for Measure 2.1 where SuDS guidance and advice will be provided to developers, however there is uncertainty over how this will be implemented and the scale at which the effects of SuDS could cover.
SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	1	0	0	The majority of effects have been identified as likely to have negligible or minor positive effects upon landscape and townscape. Full details of the assessment can be found in Appendix C . However, one measure has been identified as likely to have significant positive effects upon landscape and townscape. Measure 3.3 is expected to have significant positive effects if urban greening is implemented as well as improvements to native woodland which would both improve the landscape character and visual amenity.
SEA5: Historic Environment	0	0	2	The majority of measures have resulted in negligible effects upon the historic environment. Uncertain effects have been identified for two measure and actions (Measure 1.3 and 4.2). Uncertain effects have been identified for Measure 1.3 as it is currently unknown if heritage organisations will partake to protect historic assets. Measure 4.2 also has similar uncertainty as to whether community scale understanding of flood preparedness would extend to organisations managing heritage assets.
SEA6: Water Environment	4	0	0	There are four measures (2.2, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1) and associated actions that have resulted in potential significant positive effects. These measures are anticipated to result in significant improvements to water quality as a result of promoting the benefits of SuDS, improve understanding of flooding assets, implementation of nature-based solutions and improving agricultural land management respectively. All of which would alleviate surface run-off and increase attenuation which would improve water quality by fewer pollutants washing into West Sussex water bodies during heavy rainfall and flood events.
SEA7: Flood Risk	5	0	0	Five significant positive effects have been identified for measures (2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1) that contribute to reducing the flood risk within West Sussex. These measures are looking to improve local nature recovery, asset management, nature-based solutions and engaging with landowners and communities to encourage best practice watercourse and agricultural management. This is likely to result in improved resilience to flooding, reducing the effects of flood events in the future.
SEA8: Climatic Factors	0	0	1	The majority of measures and actions have resulted in minor positive effects on climatic factors. Full details of the assessment can be found in Appendix C . Uncertain effects have been identified for Measure 3.3. This has been identified as the scale of implementation of nature-based solutions is unclear, as well as the location and scale of nature-based solutions that may be introduced.
SEA9: Material Assets	0	0	2	The majority of effects have been identified as minor positive effects. Full details of the assessment can be found in Appendix C . However, two uncertain effects have been identified for Measures 4.1 and 4.2, as it is currently uncertain if the landowners and South Downs National Park management will be engaged with as part of these Actions.

7 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1. The SEA Regulations require an assessment of the plan and its “reasonable alternatives”, in addition to those proposed within the draft LFRMS. The assessment of reasonable alternatives does not need to include all possible alternatives, but only those that are realistic.
- 7.1.2. The development of the LFRMS Measures has not at this stage identified any key policy alternatives, so the assessment of alternatives has assessed a ‘do nothing’ scenario which is the continuation of the existing LFRMS.

7.2 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE LFRMS MEASURES

- 7.2.1. The main assessment has been outlined in **Table 7-1** overleaf. In Summary, the existing strategy has performed similarly to the proposed LFRMS, as many of the objectives and measures overlap and ultimately will ensure flood protection. Significant positive effects are likely for SEA1 (population, equalities and health) and SEA7 (flood risk) for both the existing strategy and proposed LFRMS.
- 7.2.2. There the two strategies differ slightly is through the alignment with the updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the County’s districts and boroughs and developing a better response to the flooding events of 2024. In the previous strategy, there is no objective that proposes the use of flood risk modelling, meaning the measures will not account for the 2024 flood events or include up to date information that can inform flood risk planning.
- 7.2.3. The existing strategy has resulted in potential significant positive effects upon population, equalities and human health (SEA1), and flood risk (SEA7), with minor positive effects upon economy (SEA2), water environment (SEA6), climatic factors (SEA8), and material assets (SEA9). The existing strategy includes the implementation of Suds, alongside a strong focus on community resilience, improving drainage and flood resilience across West Sussex.
- 7.2.4. Mixed positive and negative effects have been identified for biodiversity (SEA3) as the existing strategy has no direct measures set out to increase biodiversity. However the utilisation of SuDS is included within the existing strategy in Action 2C and 3C. There are also mixed positive and negative effects identified for landscape and townscape (SEA4) and historic environment (SEA5). There is no specific objective that addresses flood resilience for these topics. However, the creation of a Sustainable Drainage Approving Body (or SAB) and the possible implementation of SuDS is likely to enhance the surrounding environment and protect assets.
- 7.2.5. Overall, the proposed LFRMS includes a greater level of detail on proposed measures. This has potential to result in a greater number of positive effects on the SEA objectives as policies are more applicable to the current state of the environment, particularly with regard to biodiversity and climate change, which will improve resilience and contribute to reducing flood risk across West Sussex as a result of the proposed LFRMS.

Table 7-1 – Assessment of LFRMS Alternatives

SEA Objective	Significance of Effects	Application of Existing LFRMS Summary of Effects
SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	++	The existing strategy includes objective 2 (Manage the flood risk in West Sussex) with action 2D fostering partnerships with the Environment Agency to deliver flood warnings, improve awareness of the flooding risks, increased local resilience and direct people towards self protection of their property. This objective also aims to achieve small scale works through other functions and community working as well as carrying out local schemes if they have a strong community, economic or environment benefit. However objective 2, action A highlights bias against rural, isolated or individual properties due to the criteria used to assess the level of national funding available for flood risk management (i.e. number of properties protected, property value, level of social deprivation etc), reducing flood inequalities. The existing strategy also includes objective 4 (put communities at the heart of what we do and help West Sussex residents) with actions 4A and 4B prioritising emergency plans and improving community resilience to flooding by local authorities helping individuals protect themselves, their property and businesses. This will help to reduce distress amongst the community from floods.
SEA2: Economy	+	Objective 2 aims to improve drainage with action 2C detailing that following the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act, the County Council are to become a Sustainable Drainage Approving Body (SAB). This will lead to increase implementation of SuDS and which promotes resilience to flooding. Objective 4B aims to improve community resilience by helping people protect their businesses. Both objective are anticipated to improve recovery time from flood events, reducing the cost to businesses.
SEA3: Biodiversity	+/-	There is no objective or action within the existing strategy that focusses specifically on improving biodiversity. However, objective 2C and 3C focuses on managing flood risk with relation to the natural environment. The implementation of SuDS may have positive effects on habitats and wildlife, as well as opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. However, there is potential for additional development to arise from the existing strategy and may result in loss or degradation of biodiversity depending on flood defences that may arise. Additionally, there is no mention of biodiversity net gain.
SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	+/-	There is no measure or action within the existing strategy that focusses specifically on improving landscape and townscape within West Sussex. However, objective 2C details the implementation of Schedule 3 which will require all developments over certain thresholds to secure drainage approval from WSCC prior to construction. This mitigates contribution to flooding through the new development's drainage networks, and has potential to positively impact the built environment of West Sussex. The strategy also implements of a SAB (action 2C) and the implementation of SuDS (action 3C), these actions both aim to provide habitats for wildlife in urban areas and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. This in turn could provide improvements to the landscape and townscape setting. Action 2C also mentions the involvement of the South Downs National Park Authority, who are included in the local planning authority and take part in the decision making on development proposals.
SEA5: Historic Environment	+/-	There is no measure or action within the existing strategy that specifically improves the historic environment within West Sussex. There are also no partnerships identified associated with historic assets. However, objective 3 aims to enable people, communities, business and public bodies to work together more effectively through action 3D finding ways to enable Partnership Funding for schemes to strategically protect areas at greatest risk and Action 3B to raise awareness through information sharing. Both actions are likely to positively benefit the historic environment in vulnerable areas.
SEA6: Water Environment	+	There is no direct objective to improve water quality within the existing strategy however, objective 2, action 2C aims to improve surface water drainage through management plans identifying flood locations. Action 2C also details the implementation of Schedule 3 and the County Council are to become a SAB. This would promote the design and adoptions of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS is a nature-based flood alleviation solution that positively affects water quality through controlled release, reducing surface water runoff which inadvertently reduces the quantity of pollutants washed into West Sussex water bodies whilst decreasing the volume of water entering sewers and storm overflow discharges. Objective 3, action 3C aims to work with other Risk Management Authorities which includes implementing the SuDS Approval Body by the WSCC. This will positively support partnerships to implement measures promoting flood resilience.
SEA7: Flood Risk	++	All objectives and measures aim to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources, increasing the resilience/ decreasing the vulnerability to flooding. However it should be noted that the existing strategy does not consider flood risk modelling, and is therefore not considering the 2024 flood events. This may increase the risk of flooding if resilience measures are not appropriately located within the County.

SEA Objective	Significance of Effects	Application of Existing LFRMS Summary of Effects
SEA8: Climatic Factors	+	There is no direct objective to increase resilience to climate change. However, in objective 2, action 2C in the existing strategy focusses on improving surface water drainage as well as improvements and maintenance to highways in West Sussex. Management of drainage could improve the resilience of road infrastructure to the effects of climate change. However, there is no specific measure that deals with critical infrastructures other than the highways networks and there are no transport partnerships within the LFRMS with assets managed individually at a county, district and borough scale. Objective 3, action 3C aims to work with other Risk Management Authorities which includes implementing the SuDS Approval Body by the WSCC. This will positively affect the planning and drainage approval process working together effectively and provide a natural flood attenuation process to increase flood resilience.
SEA9: Material Assets	+	Objective 2 aims to manage the Flood Risk in West Sussex, this is to be achieved through adding flood defence assets to a register to ensure appropriate management and inclusion in future solutions. This should increase flood resilience across the region and mitigate flood damage and soil erosion to agricultural land and the South Downs National Country Park.

8 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

8.1 INTRODUCTION

- 8.1.1. The SEA Regulations require that cumulative effects are considered when identifying likely significant effects. Cumulative effects arise, for instance:
- Where several individual measures have a combined effect on an objective; or
 - Where several measures each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect.
- 8.1.2. The significance of cumulative effects resulting from a range of activities, or multiple incidences of one activity, may vary based on factors such as the nature of the proposed sites and policies and the sensitivity of the receiving communities and environment.
- 8.1.3. This section therefore presents the findings of the following:
- Consideration of how different proposed measures within WCC may interact and cause cumulative effects on a receptor (Intra-Plan effects); and
 - How the proposed measures within LFRMS could cause cumulative effects in association with other plans, policies and projects in the surrounding area (Inter-Plan effects).

8.2 INTRA-PLAN EFFECTS

- 8.2.1. The SEA assessment of both measures and actions drew out potential intra-project cumulative effects. These have been identified in **Table 8-2** below.
- 8.2.2. **Table 8-1** below outlines the key to effects for intra-plan cumulative effects.

Table 8-1 – Key to Cumulative Effects

Effect	Key
Significant positive cumulative effects	++
Minor positive cumulative effects	+
Significant negative cumulative effects	--
Minor negative cumulative effects	-
Mixed cumulative effects	+/-
Uncertain cumulative effects	?
No overall cumulative effects	0

Table 8-2 – Intra-Plan Effects

SEA Objective	Significance	Summary
SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	++	The increased level of protection offered across the proposed measures and actions are likely to give rise to cumulative increase in protection offered to current and future populations, reducing inequality in which districts are protected and, in turn, reducing distress caused by flooding.
SEA2: Economy	++	The increased level of protection offered across the proposed measures is likely to give rise to cumulative increase in protection offered to current and future businesses and developments, reducing economic loss from flooding.
SEA3: Biodiversity	+/-	Positive cumulative effects are anticipated if multiple developments implement nature-based solutions, as is promoted by the LFRMS measures. The implementation of SuDS have the potential to give rise to a cumulative increase in the levels of green infrastructure and habitats. The level of infrastructure required for some actions arising from the LFRMS and the scale of construction is not yet known. If multiple schemes arise within the same time frame, there is potential for a cumulative loss of land and therefore potential habitats (permanent negative effect). Construction activities are also likely to temporarily adversely affect nearby habitats and species through noise, disruption and loss of visual amenity due to the presence of construction plant and activities.
SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	++	Positive cumulative effects are anticipated as a result of increased flood risk management within West Sussex's local landscapes. Increasing resilience measures also has potential to improve the setting of local landscape and townscapes. The development of SuDS and nature-based solutions has the potential to give rise to a cumulative increase in the levels of green infrastructure.
SEA5: Historic Environment	+/-	Multiple measures in combination could provide a cumulative increase in protection to the historic environment. However, the location of infrastructure that may arise is unknown. There is potential for cumulative degradation of the historic environment if multiple insensitively designed schemes were to come forward. Additionally, there is potential for construction works to result in disruption to buried or undiscovered heritage assets.
SEA6: Water Environment	++	The LFRMS has potential for positive cumulative effects on water quality through reduced levels of surface runoff. The implementation of SuDS is likely to result in controlled runoff of surface water during flood and heavy rainfall events, positively affecting water quality.
SEA7: Flood Risk	++	The increased level of protection offered across the proposed measures and actions are likely to give rise to cumulative increase in protection from flood risk across the West Sussex region.
SEA8: Climatic Factors	++	The increased level of protection offered across the proposed measures and actions are likely to give rise to cumulative increase in protection offered against the effects of climate change for now and into the future.
SEA9: Material Assets	+/-	Increased resilience to flooding will help to ensure that material assets within West Sussex is given greater resilience to the effects of climate change. Delivery of multiple schemes and measures may cumulatively increase resilience. Additionally, if multiple SuDS developments were to arise there is potential for improved carbon sequestration and protection to soil quality, improving drainage. However, if multiple schemes were to arise, there is potential for a cumulative disruption of soils through earthworks.

8.3 INTER-PLAN EFFECTS

- 8.3.1. **Table 8-3** below outlines the sources of potential inter-plan cumulative effects, whilst **Table 8-4** details the cumulative effects identified for each of the SEA Topics in relation to these policies and projects.
- 8.3.2. This assessment uses the same key to effects as set out in **Table 8-1** above.

Table 8-3 - Sources of Inter-Plan Cumulative Effects

Policy or Plan	Plan Details
West Sussex County Council Plan 2021 - 2025	The West Sussex Local Council Plan 2021-2025 focuses on four main priorities: keeping people safe from vulnerable situations, fostering a sustainable and prosperous economy, helping people and communities fulfil their potential, and making the best use of resources. The plan emphasises collaboration with partners, efficient resource management, and a commitment to protecting the environment while addressing the needs of the community.
West Sussex County Council Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030	In response to threats posed by climate change, West Sussex County Council proposed a 10-year strategy that outlines their commitments to achieving environmental goals including reducing carbon emissions, improving climate resilience, improve sustainable resourcing, developing a local green economy and transforming how services are delivered. This strategy is enforced to align with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
West Sussex Economy Reset Plan 2020-2024	The West Sussex Economy Reset Plan 2020-2024 focuses on recovering from COVID-19 by supporting business survival, enhancing digital infrastructure, reviving key sectors, promoting sustainable growth, and strengthening partnerships. The plan aims to create a resilient and thriving local economy.
West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036	The West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036 aims to improve key roads, enhance infrastructure for active travel and shared transport, and introduce electric vehicle charging points across all districts. It focuses on managing parking and traffic, implementing Air Quality Action Plans, and using traffic signal technology to prioritize shared transport. The plan also includes measures to address inappropriate speed and route usage, support dynamic demand-responsive transport services, and collaborate with partners to deliver faster rail services.
Adur District Council, Local Plan 2017	This Local Plan provides a comprehensive vision for the future of Adur until 2032. It guides new development to address challenges, promote local employment, reduce travel, increase investment, improve access to the downs, and balance natural asset protection with development needs.
Arun District Council, Local Plan 2011 - 2031	Arun's Local Plan aims to promote sustainable development and manage growth to meet local needs, ensuring homes, employment, and shops are coordinated with essential services. It also protects valued aspects of the District, such as heritage, culture, the unspoilt coastline, diverse landscapes, and community facilities, with further details provided in Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Policy or Plan	Plan Details
Chichester District Council, Local Plan 2021 - 2039	This provides a broad policy framework and strategy to manage development, deliver infrastructure, protect the environment and promote sustainable communities in the Chichester District. It aims to balance socio-economic and environmental dimensions of development through identifying opportunities to support business growth and associated employment growth and enhance special qualities of the environment.
Crawley Borough Council, Local Plan 2023 - 2040	The Crawley Borough Local Plan outlines the borough's development and infrastructure needs until 2040, ensuring sustainable economic growth while protecting important built and environmental assets. It addresses sustainable development, infrastructure, economic growth, housing, and environmental sustainability, including green infrastructure and sustainable transport.
Horsham District Council, Local Plan 2019 - 2036	The Horsham District Local Plan 2019-2036 outlines the district's strategy to meet social, economic, and environmental needs, excluding the South Downs National Park. It includes policies for development locations, housing, employment, and environmental protection, aiming to manage growth and tackle climate change.
Mid Sussex District Council Local Plan 2021 - 2039	The Mid Sussex District Council Local Plan 2021-2039 sets out the vision, strategy, and policy framework for the district, focusing on sustainable growth and development. It includes land allocations for new sustainable communities, housing, and infrastructure, alongside updated policies for climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable transport.
Worthing Borough Council Local Plan 2023	The Worthing Local Plan provides a strategy for sustainable development and change in Worthing up to 2036, balancing growth benefits against potential impacts. It addresses key planning challenges, promotes regeneration, protects the environment, delivers infrastructure, and supports vibrant, healthy communities through a set of social, economic, and environmental objectives.

Policy or Plan	Plan Details
Neighbouring Local Plans and Strategies	Local plans in neighbouring local authorities (Portsmouth, Havant, East Hampshire, Waverley, Mole Valley, and East Sussex) influence cross-boundary development improvements. The plans include: ■ Portsmouth City Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; ■ Portsmouth City Council, Local Plan; ■ Portsmouth Transport Strategy (2021-2038); ■ Havant Borough Council, Local Plan; ■ Havant Borough Transport Statement (2012-2026); ■ East Hampshire District Council, Local Plan; ■ Hampshire County Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; ■ Hampshire County Council, Local Transport Plan 4 (2024-2050); ■ Waverley Borough Council, Local Plan; ■ Mole Valley Borough Council, Local Plan; ■ Surrey County Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; ■ Surrey County Council, Local Transport Plan (2022-2050); ■ Wealden District Council Local Plan; ■ Lewes District Council Local Plan; ■ Brighton and Hove City Council City Plan; ■ East Sussex County Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; and ■ East Sussex County Council, Local Transport Plan (2010-2026).

Table 8-4 – Inter-Project Effects

SEA Objective	Significance	Summary
SEA1: Population, Equalities and Human Health	++	There is potential for positive cumulative effects due to mitigation measures such as SuDS and ensuring new developments are not within high flood risk zones, which will help to increase and enhance flood protection. The provision of SuDS also has the possibility to protect and enhance recreational amenity and public access for new local developments. Ensuring that flood risk data and reporting is continually updated could expose areas that are less resilient and improve inequalities in flood risk management for other local developments. Improvements in regional awareness and preparedness of flood risk, such as introducing flood wardens, may reduce distress amongst communities in cases of flooding.
SEA2: Economy	++	There is the potential for positive effects on the economy arising the cumulative impact of multiple district plans focusing on local infrastructure and employment development. These developments, alongside enhanced mapping and prioritisation of high-risk assets, has the potential to attract investment and funding for resilient infrastructure, boosting economic growth.
SEA3: Biodiversity	+/-	Potential for cumulative loss, damage or fragmentation of statutory and non-statutory sites and habitats due to the provision of housing developments and transport infrastructure alongside flood protection measures. However, positive cumulative effects may result from multiple measures to protect natural assets and the environment in local plans. The development of green infrastructure has the potential to enhance local biodiversity.
SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	+/-	There is a potential loss of open space from the workings of multiple Local Development Plans, however the provision of public realm improvements through these plans could help to improve the remaining open space for better utilisation, as well as improving the setting of the WSCC's townscape and landscape.
SEA5: Historic Environment	+/-	There is the potential for temporary negative cumulative effects on the historic environment from multiple housing developments in West Sussex and neighbouring counties. During construction of these developments there is the potential for disturbance to the historic environment due to noise and air pollution. Additionally, poor and insensitive design from infrastructure developments could have negative impacts upon the setting of WSCC's heritage assets. However, sharing flood risk data with LFRMS partners and stakeholders, and involving organisations managing local heritage, has the potential to improve community resilience and reduce the likelihood of damage to heritage assets.
SEA6: Water Environment	++	Involving partners and stakeholders in conversations about flood risk could result in positive cumulative impacts such as better management of sewer flooding, drainage, groundwater, and surface runoff, reducing pollution in regional water bodies. For local development projects focusing on regeneration, these improvements and standardised guidance have the potential to enhance flood resilience through the increased implementation of SuDS, which could make the area more attractive for sustainable infrastructure investments.
SEA7: Flood Risk	+/-	The proposed housing and transport developments may increase the use of hard standing surfaces, which has the potential to increase surface water runoff and potentially worsening flooding. However, incorporating permeable surfaces and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) across the county can help mitigate this risk. Additionally, the plans may ensure that development avoids flood-prone areas.
SEA8: Climatic Factors	++	New and improved developments, like sustainable transport plans and active travel, can lead to positive cumulative effects. Infrastructure designed to be low carbon, energy-efficient, and resilient to climate change also contributes to these benefits. Climate change adaptation measures will likely be tailored to each local plan. Positive cumulative effects have the potential to result from new and improved developments, such as sustainable transport plans and active travel, and infrastructure that incorporates low carbon and energy efficient design which is resilient to the effects of climate change. Climate change adaptation measures are likely to be specific to each local plan.
SEA9: Material Assets	+/-	The cumulative implementation of SuDS across multiple local plans can positively impact material assets by enhancing flood protection through improved soil drainage and better water quality. However, if numerous schemes are developed simultaneously, there could be cumulative soil disruption due to extensive earthworks.

9 MITIGATION, ENHANCEMENT AND MONITORING

9.1 MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

- 9.1.1. Mitigation of significant negative effects of the plan and enhancement of positive effects are a key purpose of SEA. The SEA Regulations require that mitigation measures are considered to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan. The measures are known as 'mitigation' measures. Mitigation measures include both proactive avoidance of adverse effects and actions taken after potential effects are identified.
- 9.1.2. The mitigation measures proposed in **Table 9-1** are designed to avoid or reduce the effects identified as potentially negative through the policy assessments on the SEA Objectives. The table also includes enhancement measures, that aim to optimise positive impacts and enhance sustainability.

Table 9-1 Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring

SEA Objective	Mitigation/ Enhancement	Mechanism
SEA1	Online educational materials should not be limited to social media. Measures should ensure information is accessible to all and delivered in a non-technical manner for all members of the community.	Within the LFRMS Project level environmental assessment
SEA1	Resources should be publicly available and free to access for those who may not have access to a computer or smartphone	Within the LFRMS Project level environmental assessment
SEA1	Communication should not be limited to an online flood system. Measures should ensure that all groups can report a flood and in a timely manner. Consideration should be given to those who may not have access or the knowledge to access the internet and/or a smart phone.	Within the LFRMS Project level environmental assessment
SEA1	New developments should present opportunities for new areas of green infrastructure and green space which can be accessed by the community.	Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment
SEA3	Opportunity to promote used of SuDS in standard drainage guidance to work with natural processes to manage flood risk and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through habitat creation, green engineering and natural management techniques.	Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment
SEA3	Biodiversity targets should exceed mandatory biodiversity net gain of 10% where possible.	Within the LFRMS Scheme level HRA Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment

SEA Objective	Mitigation/ Enhancement	Mechanism
SEA3	Biodiversity measures that are implemented should aim to contribute to reducing flood risk where possible, with improved tree planting for drainage measures.	Within the LFRMS Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment
SEA4 SEA5	Measures should incorporate Construction Industry Research and Information Association's (CIRIA) guidance on SuDS ⁷ design to ensure high-quality design that will minimise the effects on the historic environment.	Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment
SEA4 SEA5	A consistent approach should be applied to developments as they should be well-designed and screened to ensure that their effects on the townscape, landscape and historic setting are minimised.	Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment
SEA6	Care should be taken during construction regarding the potential for contaminants such as silt, concrete or fuel oil to pollute water courses via surface run off. All construction activities should be undertaken in accordance with relevant best practice pollution prevention guidance. Pollution Incident Control Management Plans should be developed to limit adverse effects arising from pollution events.	CEMP Pollution Incident Control Management Plan
SEA6	Dependent on the nature of proposed flood risk schemes, natural hydromorphological functions could be impacted, resulting in negative effects.	Scheme level design Project level environmental assessment

⁷ Construction Industry Research and Information Association's (CIRIA) [Guidance on the construction of SuDS \(C768\)](#). 2017. Illman, S, Wilson, S.

9.2 MONITORING MEASURES

- 9.2.1. The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken on a plan so that the significant effects of implementation can be identified, and remedial action imposed. The purpose of the monitoring is to provide an important measure of the sustainability outcome of the final plan, and to measure the performance of the plan against sustainability objectives and targets. Monitoring is also used to manage uncertainty, improve knowledge, enhance transparency and accountability, and to manage sustainability information.
- 9.2.2. The aim of monitoring is to check whether the plan is having the significant effects that were predicted in the SEA, and to deal with any unforeseen problems. Those remaining significant effects (albeit uncertain effects) following the implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures above include the following:
- **SEA3 (Biodiversity):** Potential loss of and fragmentation of habitats from the construction of flood defence schemes.
 - **SEA4 (Landscape and Townscape):** Potential degradation of the landscape and townscape from the construction of flood defence schemes.
 - **SEA5 (Historic Environment):** Potential loss of heritage assets (including archaeological remains) and deterioration of the historic setting from the construction of flood defence schemes.
 - **SEA6 (Water Quality):** Potential degradation of groundwater quality.
- 9.2.3. It should be noted that these uncertain effects are generally where limited scheme information is currently available.
- 9.2.4. **Table 9-2** below sets out those monitoring measures which could be suitable in monitoring those uncertain residual effects outlined above.
- 9.2.5. WSCC will be responsible for undertaking monitoring.

Table 9-2 – Proposed Monitoring Measures

SEA Objective	What could be measured?	Mechanism
SEA3: Biodiversity	The number of new schemes achieving biodiversity net gain. The Urban Greening Factor	Scheme level design Urban Greening Factor Calculator Annual monitoring
SEA4: Landscape and Townscape	Loss or damage to landscape character and features of designated sites. Area of blue and green infrastructure created.	Scheme level design Annual monitoring

SEA Objective	What could be measured?	Mechanism
SEA5: Historic Environment	Number of developments within a conservation area. Number of historic assets (including buried heritage) lost and/or discovered. Number of heritage assets benefiting from flood protection.	Scheme level design Annual monitoring
SEA6: Water Environment	WFD water quality.	Scheme level WFD risk assessment

9.2.6. **Table 9-3** below sets out additional monitoring measures to monitor the potential significant positive effects of the LFRMS.

Table 9-3 - Additional Monitoring Measures

SEA Objective	What could be measured?	Mechanism
SEA1: Equalities and Human Health	The number of properties benefiting from flood protection. % increase of green/blue infrastructure.	Scheme level design Annual monitoring
SEA2: Economy SEA7: Flood risk SEA8: Climatic Factors	The number of properties benefiting from flood protection. The number of businesses benefiting from flood protection. The number of critical infrastructure assets benefiting from flood protection.	Annual monitoring
SEA8: Climatic Factors	Number of schemes that make use of existing infrastructure.	Scheme level design
SEA9: Material Assets	% of land that is restored and improved.	Annual monitoring

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1.1. This section sets out the recommendations identified throughout the SEA assessment. It should be noted that these are different from the mitigation measures outlined in **Section 9** above, as they focus on potential changes to the LFRMS, rather than measures identified in response to significant effects.
- 10.1.2. These changes have been considered by WSCC following consultation and have been included as part of the final LFRMS. **Table 10-1** below outlines these recommendations.

Table 10-1 – SEA Recommendations

Item	Recommendation
General	If known, it is recommended that the LFRMS includes the indicative programme of flood risk management schemes and the types of schemes to be delivered.
Objectives	The overarching objectives are lacking in detail, which has resulted in some uncertain effects with the SEA objectives. Providing further details on what the objectives could entail would increase the overall compatibility.
Measures 1.1, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1	The LFRMS could be expanded to include the following stakeholders: local and regional transport bodies.
Measure 1.3	Alternative methods could be explored to allow non computer users to report a flood in their community.
Measure 1.3	Action 3.1.3 could consider expanding to include both social media and phone/text alerts for flood events. It could also extend warnings to transport network providers,
Measure 4.2	This measure could be expanded to include the following groups/organisations: South Downs National Park Authority, Environment Agency, Historic England, transport links across the region.

11 NEXT STEPS

- 11.1.1. In accordance with the SEA Regulations, the SEA Environmental Report must be made available at the same time alongside the draft LFRMS, as an integral part of the consultation process.
- 11.1.2. WSCC will be seeking the views of statutory bodies and other stakeholders on the draft LFRMS and the Environmental Report.
- 11.1.3. Once the LFRMS is adopted, an SEA Post-Adoption Statement will be produced to document this process and will include a record of the comments received on both the LFRMS and SEA Environmental Report, and the actions taken as well as setting out how the SEA has influenced the development of LFRMS.

Appendix A

SEA ASSURANCE CHECKLIST



Table A-1 sets out the quality assurance checklist, taken from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive⁸.

Table A-1 – Quality Assurance Checklist

Item	Where this has been addressed
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Section 2.2 of the Environmental Report sets out the plan's vision and objectives.
Environmental issues and constraints, including international and environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets	Key sustainability issues have been identified through a review of relevant plans and programmes (see Appendix D, Section 4.2 and 4.3) and analysis of baseline conditions (see Appendix D). These have informed the development of the SEA Framework presented in Section 4.4.
SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate	Section 4 sets out in detail how the SEA framework has been devised.
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	A review of plans policies and programmes is set out in Appendix D.
Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives, between SEA and plan objectives and between SEA objectives and other plan objectives are identified and described.	Section 5 tests the compatibility of the SEA framework objectives against the LFRMS draft objectives.

⁸ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's [Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#), 2005 [online]

Item	Where this has been addressed
Consultation Bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report	The statutory consultees were consulted on the Scoping Report between October and November 2024. Responses have been detailed in Appendix B.
The assessment focuses on significant issues.	Key sustainability issues have been identified in the baseline analysis contained in Appendix D. Section 4.3 summarises the key sustainability issues identified.
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit	Section 3.8 discusses the assumptions and limitations encountered.
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	No issues have been knowingly eliminated from the assessment at this stage.
Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	Section 7.2 assesses the policy alternative, which for this reflected a 'do minimum scenario' – Application of the 'business as usual scenario' – Application of the existing LFRMS.
The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared	Alternative measures and actions have both been assessed using the same criteria as the proposed policies and sites. A summary in Section 7.2 is provided that details their performance against the proposed measures and actions.
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained	Where possible, this has been highlighted within the assessment and detailed in Section 7.2.
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	A summary in Section 7.2 is provided that details their performance against the proposed allocations.

Item	Where this has been addressed
Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate	Appendix D of this SEA Report presents the baseline analysis of the borough's social, economic and environmental characteristics including their likely evolution without the LFRMS.
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Section 3.5 sets out the criteria for assessing the spatial extent of effects. This has been further documented throughout the assessment in Appendix C.
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	Section 3.8 discusses the assumptions and limitations encountered.
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Appendix D of this SEA Report presents the baseline analysis of the borough's social, economic and environmental characteristics including their likely evolution without the LFRMS.
Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate	Sections 5 and 6 summarise the appraisal of the sustainability performance of the LFRMS. The Objectives, Measures and Action Plan are appraised. Detailed appraisal matrices are also provided at Appendix C.
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Positive and negative effects are considered within the appraisal matrices and within Section 6. Potential effects are identified in the short, medium and long-term. The temporal scope for short-, medium- and long-term effects is defined in Section 3.5.

Item	Where this has been addressed
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	The potential for cumulative and synergistic effects is considered in Section 8. These have also been highlighted within the assessment of LFRMS (Appendix C).
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Inter-relationships between effects are identified in the assessment commentary, where appropriate. These have also been assessed as part of the Intra-project cumulative effects.
The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds	These have been detailed in Appendix D and identified where appropriate within the commentary for assessment.
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	These have been detailed in Section 3.5 and Appendix D.
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan or programme are indicated.	These have been outlined in Section 9.
Issues to be taken into account in project consents are identified.	These have been outlined in Section 9.
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation	The SEA Report is clear and concise.
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms	Clear non-technical language has been used throughout.
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Figure and tables have been used to present information where appropriate.

Item	Where this has been addressed
Explains the methodology used.	Methodology is set out in Sections 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7 and the thresholds for assessment are detailed in Appendix D.
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	Section 1.1 sets out the work and consultation undertaken to date. The statutory consultees were consulted on the Scoping Report between October and November 2024.
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion	Section 3.3 and Appendix D identify sources of information used to inform the assessment.
Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA.	A non-technical summary has been included separately.
The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process	The statutory consultees were consulted on the Scoping Report between October and November 2024. This SEA Report will be consulted on alongside the draft LFRMS.
Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan or programme are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and Environmental Report.	This SEA Report will be consulted on alongside the draft LFRMS. This will give opportunities for statutory consultees, stakeholders and members of the public to comment on the findings of the SEA.
The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan or programme	Responses received to this SEA Report will be taken into consideration in future iterations of the report.

Item	Where this has been addressed
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	This will be detailed in the post-adoption statement, which will be produced once the LFRMS has been adopted.
Reasons are given for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.	This will be detailed in the post-adoption statement, which will be produced once the LFRMS has been adopted.
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA.	Proposed monitoring measures are set out in Section 9.2. This details potential indicators and where possible are linked targets within the draft LFRMS and London Plan.
Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan or programme to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA.	This will be detailed in the post-adoption statement, which will be produced once the LFRMS has been adopted.
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.)	Proposed monitoring measures are set out in Section 9.2. These are proposed for those residual significant effects – in this case these are just uncertain effects.
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	Proposed monitoring measures are set out in Section 9.2. These are proposed for those residual significant effects – in this case these are just uncertain effects.

Appendix B

CONSULTATION COMMENTS

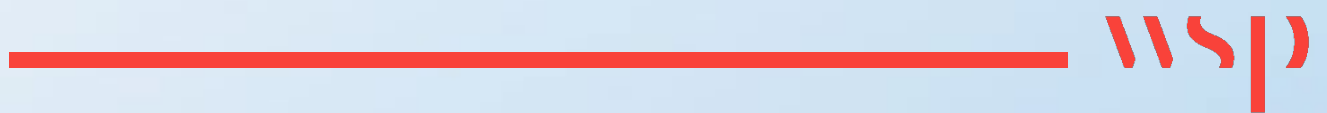




Table B-1 - Scoping Report Consultation Responses

Consultee	Date	Comment	How this has been addressed.
Historic England	22/11/2024	Historic England is a statutory consultation body in relation to the SEA Directive in regard to any matters affecting the historic environment. We are content that the scoping report for West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy adequately covers the issues that may arise in respect of the potential effects of proposed development sites on heritage assets.	General comment – no action required.

Consultee	Date	Comment	How this has been addressed.
Natural England	14/11/2024	"Natural England is not able to provide specific advice on this application and therefore has no comment to make on its details. Although we have not been able to assess the potential impacts of this proposal on statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes, we offer the further advice and references to Standing Advice. Natural England advises Local Planning Authorities to use the following tools to assess the impacts of the proposal on the natural environment: Impact Risk Zones: Natural England has provided Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) with Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) which can be used to determine whether the proposal impacts statutory nature conservation sites. Natural England recommends that the LPA uses these IRZs to assess potential impacts. If proposals do not trigger an Impact Risk Zone then Natural England will provide an auto-response email. Standing Advice: Natural England has published Standing Advice. Links to standing advice are in Annex A. If after using these tools, you consider there are significant risks to statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes, please set out the specific areas on which you require Natural England's advice. Further information on LPA duties relating to protected sites and areas is here: Protected sites and areas: how to review planning applications - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Further guidance is also set out in Planning Practice Guidance on the natural environment: Natural environment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and on Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate assessment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	General comment – no action required.

Consultee	Date	Comment	How this has been addressed.
Environment Agency	22/11/2024	There is no reference within the report of the Shoreline Management Plan, which is important baseline information about flood risk and erosion for the coastal areas of the county and should be referenced for the LFRMS, alongside the South East River Basin Management Plan (updated in 2022).	The Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan and the South East River Basin Management Plan has been referenced in the baseline section and in Appendix A: Policy Review
Environment Agency	23/11/2024	Local Authorities produce Strategic Flood Risk Assessments which also provide valuable information about flood risk areas, including future flood risk. This data should be considered as part of the strategy.	The West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013 – 2018) is included in Appendix A: Policy Review. Updates have been made to the baseline.
Environment Agency	24/11/2024	Crawley Borough Council falls within the area of the Thames River Basin Management Plan which was updated in 2022. This should be referred to alongside the South East River Basin Management Plan as it contains baseline and overarching information which could inform the updating of the LFRMS.	Baseline updated.

Consultee	Date	Comment	How this has been addressed.
Environment Agency	25/11/2024	"There are a few typographical/reference errors within the SEA Scoping report: ■ Paragraph 7.1.3 – ‘Error! Reference source not found’ ■ Paragraph 5.4.7 - Footnote 25 reference seems incorrect based on the text (which refers to ‘Operation Watershed’). ■ Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions are scoped out but are then included in Table 6-2. Is this correct? "	Paragraph 7.1.3 - reference updated. Paragraph 5.4.7 - footnote not incorrect, the South East River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 details 'Operation Watershed'. Table 6-2 updated to remove Air Quality and GHG emissions."
Environment Agency	26/11/2024	"There is no mention in this section of the Sussex North Water Resource Zone, which has implications in terms of water neutrality for developments in Horsham District, Crawley District and the north part of Chichester District."	Sussex North Water Resource Zone has been added to Section 5.8 'Future Evolution of the Baseline without the LFRMS'
Environment Agency	27/11/2024	"These tables include consideration of the “greater risk of flooding from future predicted heavy precipitation within the winter months.” However, there is no reference to the potential for summer flooding risks when periods of dry weather cause conditions where there can be ‘flash flooding’ scenarios at times of intense rainfall, particularly in urban areas. Consider adding in a comment about reducing the flood risks to people both now and in the future in ‘Implication for the LRFMS’ "	Table 5-12 and 5-13 updated to reflect summer flood risk.

Consultee	Date	Comment	How this has been addressed.
Environment Agency	28/11/2024	"Water Environment We recommend an addition to column 'Supporting Appraisal Questions – Will the policy/intervention...' to say "Support the objectives in the River Basin Management Plans and/or Shoreline Management Plans (where relevant)?" Considering the SEA Topics, in terms of the Supporting Appraisal Questions – Will the policy/intervention...?? In terms of the Water Environment and Climatic Factors topics, would suggest considering the inclusion of Reducing the Risk to Flooding for both of these topic areas. Consider placing SEA8 'To reduce the risk and vulnerability to flooding' as an SEA Objective within the Water Environment and Climatic Factors SEA Topics areas within Table 6-2 SEA Framework. Could consider rewording the point that currently reads 'The risk from greater flood events remains a key climate risk in WSCC with a greater risk from future predicted heavy precipitation within the winter months'. Suggested text - 'The risk from more extreme and frequent flood events remains a key climate risk throughout the WSCC area with a greater risk from future predicted heavy precipitation during the winter months and a greater risk of more intense storms during the summer months'. This text is set out within the Climatic Factors and Material Assets SEA Topics. Suggest consideration of this point being included within the Water Environment topic. This text also appears in Tables 5-12 and 5-13. If text is revised, could text be updated in these tables also."	Changes to Table 6-2 have been updated.

Consultee	Date	Comment	How this has been addressed.
Environment Agency	29/11/2024	"Some key communities at flood risk have been omitted from the list. Eg, Shoreham, Lancing, Chichester, Horsham, Bognor Regis. The publication of Nafra2 outputs in early 2025 will result in some significant changes to the existing published flood map products."	Communities added to Section 5.8.
Environment Agency	30/11/2024	The EA have both Flood Alert and Flood Warning areas. Only Flood Alert areas are shown on Figure B-9.	Noted. The figure will be updated.
Environment Agency	01/12/2024	The RRFRS map will also be updated in early 2025 as part of the Nafra2 project.	Noted. The updated dataset will be considered within the assessment if it is released at the time of reporting.
Environment Agency	02/12/2024	Crawley Borough Council falls within the area of the Thames River Basin Management Plan which was updated in 2022. This should be referred to alongside the South East River Basin Management Plan as it contains baseline and overarching information which could inform the updating of the LFRMS	River Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan has been included in Appendix A.
Environment Agency	03/12/2024	As an observation, the scale of the mapping can make it tricky to see the detail, especially on Figures B-8 and B-10, but appreciate these maps are to offer an overview of the area for the Scoping process.	General comment – no action required.

Appendix C

ASSESSMENT OF LFRMS MEASURES AND ACTIONS



See separate document.

Appendix D

BASELINE, REVIEW OF PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

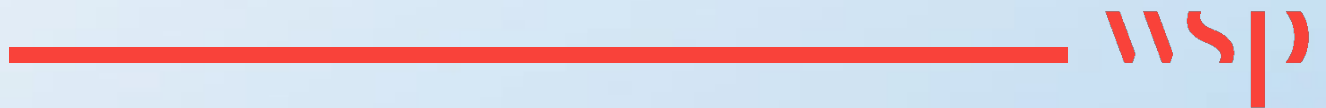


Table D-1 - Relevant Plans, Policies, Strategies and Programmes – Population and Human Health (National)

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Equality Act (2010)	The Equality Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of: ▪ Age; ▪ Being or becoming a transsexual person; ▪ Being married or in a civil partnership; ▪ Being pregnant or having a child; ▪ Disability; ▪ Race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; ▪ Religion, belief or lack of religion/belief; ▪ Sex; and ▪ Sexual orientation
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	When delivering new schemes, applicants must avoid and mitigate environmental and social impacts in line with the principles set out in the NPPF and the UK Government's planning guidance. Applicants should provide evidence that they have considered reasonable opportunities to deliver environmental and social benefits as part of schemes.
Fair Society and Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review) (2010)	The Marmot Review identified that the levels of social, environmental and economic inequality in society are damaging health and well-being. The Review concluded that to reduce health inequalities action would need to be made across the following six objectives: • Give every child the best start in life • Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives • Create fair employment and good work for all • Ensure healthy standard of living for all • Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities • Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.



Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex Council Plan, 2021-2025	Our Council Plan is West Sussex corporate plan for 2021-2025. The plan sets out the priorities for the council and the outcomes we want to achieve for people who live and work in West Sussex. We focus on four priorities, all of which are underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of protecting the environment: 1. Keeping people safe from vulnerable situations. 2. A sustainable and prosperous economy. 3. Helping people and communities to fulfil their potential. 4. Making the best use of resources. The plan also contains a set of performance indicators that will be used to measure the impact of the work we do in the county and whether we have achieved the outcomes and delivered on the four priorities in the plan.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 (July 2018)	The purpose of the Local Plan is to encourage sustainable development and manage future growth whilst ensuring that change across the district is appropriate to meet local need. It will support the strategic provision of homes, employment and shops and will look to ensure that these are carefully co-ordinated with the services and facilities that communities rely on, and which are essential to wellbeing and quality of life. Strategic Objectives of the Arun Local Plan to be Achieved by 2031 are; • To strengthen Arun's economic base and provide local job opportunities by increasing, diversifying and improving the quality of employment within the district through the provision of appropriate employment sites, better infrastructure including road access, quality affordable accommodation and the development of business support and partnerships; • To reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable forms of transport; • To plan for climate change; to work in harmony with the environment to conserve natural resources and increase biodiversity; • To plan and deliver a range of housing mix and types in locations with good access to employment, services and facilities to meet the district's housing requirements and the needs of Arun's residents and communities both urban and rural, ensuring that issues of affordability and the provision of appropriate levels of affordable housing are addressed while supporting the creation of integrated communities; • To protect and enhance Arun's outstanding landscape, countryside, coastline, historic, built and archaeological environment, as well as the setting of the South Downs National Park, thereby reinforcing local character and identity; • To create vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible towns and villages that build upon their unique characters to provide a wide range of uses and which are a focus for quality shopping, entertainment, leisure, tourism and cultural activities; and • To promote strong, well integrated and cohesive communities, through the promotion of healthy lifestyles, provision of good quality accessible community facilities and a safe environment, which delivers an enhanced quality of life to all. This includes meeting the needs of a growing elderly population.
Adur Local Plan, 2017	The Adur Local Plan is a new plan which provides a strategy for development in Adur up to 2032. It seeks to achieve a balance in meeting needs for development – such as housing, employment, retail and community facilities, while striving to protect and enhance the character and features of Adur. The vision for Adur responds to local challenges and opportunities, is evidence based, locally distinctive and takes account of community derived objectives.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies, 2015	The current Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies was adopted in 2015. The council is now required to produce a new Local Plan which will plan and manage development up to 2039. This Plan seeks to balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It does this by: • Identifying the amount of development needed; • Identifying development opportunities and infrastructure required to support and foster business enterprises and entrepreneurship; • Providing opportunities to create new dwellings and jobs for present and future generations, with accessible facilities that support the needs of strong, vibrant and healthy communities; and, • Protecting and enhancing the unique and special qualities of our environment.
Crawley Borough Local Plan 2015 – 2030 December 2015	This Local Plan replaces the Core Strategy (2008) and the saved Local Plan policies (2000). It sets out the strategic priorities for Crawley and the strategic policies to deliver: • Homes and jobs • Provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development • Provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater, flood risk management, and energy • Provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities • Climate change mitigation and adaptation • Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape • Control of Gatwick Airport

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Housing and homelessness strategy 2019 to 2023, Arun District Council, West Sussex, 2019-2023	Arun faces some significant housing challenges and we are committed to tackling them, putting our customers at the heart of our service. This Housing & Homeless Strategy sets four main objectives for the period 2019- 2021: • Increase housing supply across all tenures • Prevent & relieve homelessness • Improve housing conditions across all tenures • Create sustainable communities to meet the needs of all residents The Strategy is informed by the Homelessness Review undertaken in 2018 (Appendix 2) as well as running in parallel to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2017 and the Arun Local Plan 2018. The Action Plan to meet the four objectives is set out in Appendix 1. This Action Plan will be monitored throughout the life of the Strategy, with annual progress reviews.
Housing Strategy 2020 – 2023, Adur and Worthing	The Councils of Adur and Worthing want to build platforms from which people, communities, businesses and ideas can develop and flourish. This updated Housing Strategy for Adur & Worthing is not just about buildings but is about people and communities. The Strategy sets out three key priorities: • Housing related wellbeing and support • Better homes, stronger communities • Improving the levels of affordable housing supply

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex Equality and Inclusion policy, 2024	The West Sussex Diversity and Inclusion policy statement sets out the County Council's commitment to deliver fair and inclusive services for all West Sussex communities. The major objectives of the policy include: • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation • advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it ■ foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Table D-2 – Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes – Human Health

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post (2012)	Reducing health inequalities is a matter of fairness and social justice. In England, the many people who are currently dying prematurely each year as a result of health inequalities would otherwise have enjoyed, in total, between 1.3 and 2.5 million extra years of life. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all; Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	Paragraph 96 of the NPPF states: <i>‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:</i> <i>a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;</i> <i>b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and</i> <i>c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.’</i>

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Public Health England (2020) Health Matters, Physical Activity: Prevention and management of long-term conditions	Regular physical activity provides a range of physical and mental health and social benefits, including: ▪ Reducing the risk of many long-term conditions ▪ Helping manage existing conditions ▪ Ensuring good musculoskeletal health ▪ Developing and maintaining physical and mental function and independence ▪ Supporting social inclusion ▪ Helping maintain a healthy weight ▪ Reducing inequalities for people with long-term conditions The CMOs' Physical Activity Guidelines state that for good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. Any activity is better than none, and more is better still. Regular physical activity can help to prevent and manage a range of chronic conditions and diseases, many of which are on the rise and affecting people at an earlier age.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex Adult Social Care Strategy (2022-2025)	The life you want to lead' is the new strategy that sets out five priorities to guide the future development of West Sussex's adult social care services up to 2025. The five priorities are: 1. Building relationships and connections - Recognising the importance of three key different types of relationships: with families and close support, with help and support, as well as to wider social networks. 2. Empowerment - Putting the emphasis on enabling and supporting people to be equal partners in, and where possible lead on, decisions about what happens in their lives and to maximise their independence and ability to lead a fulfilling life. 3. Home - Supporting people to be in their own homes and where independent living is not possible, in places that feel like home recognising that having good connections to other people such as family, friends and neighbours is important. 4. Addressing gaps - Highlighting four key gaps to be addressed: the shortage of care workers; the gaps in understanding and support for people with autism or who have an acquired brain injury; moving from children's to adults' services (transitions); and paying for care. 5. Inclusion and tackling inequalities - Promoting inclusion for people facing multiple disadvantage; understanding and responsiveness to diversity and tackling inequalities; and promoting digital inclusion and making the best use of assistive technologies.
West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024	The Strategy sets out the vision and priorities to improve the health and wellbeing for all residents in West Sussex. These include • Starting Well – improved mother and baby health, good mental health for all children, safe and healthy home environment, and children and young people leaving care; • Living and Working Well – connected communities, able to look after own health, access to good quality homes, live and play in environments that promote health and wellbeing; and • Ageing Well – reducing loneliness and social isolation, healthier, happier and more independent older people, reduction in the number of older people having falls, and good quality end of life care.

Table D-3 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes – Economy and Employment

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Growth and Infrastructure Act (2013)	The Act allows the modification or discharge of the affordable housing elements of section 106 agreements in order to make developments more viable. Contains measures to extend permitted development rights to allow single-storey extensions of up to eight metres. Reduces the volume of extra paperwork required with a planning application; removing over-lapping development consent regimes that require multiple extra permissions from different Government agencies.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)	To determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for. Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies, including, but not limited to: ■ Those who require affordable housing; ■ Families with children; ■ Older people; ■ Students; ■ People with disabilities; ■ Service families; ■ Travellers; ■ People who rent their homes; and ■ People wishing to commission or build their own homes.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	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. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future.
The Enterprise Act (2016)	The Enterprise Act includes measures to: ■ Establish a Small Business Commissioner to help small firms resolve issues. ■ Extend the Primary Authority scheme to make it easier for businesses to access tailored and assured advice from local authorities, giving them greater confidence to invest and grow. ■ Protect and strengthen apprenticeships by introducing targets for apprenticeships in public sector bodies in England, and establish an Institute for Apprenticeships – an independent, employer-led body that will make sure apprenticeships meet the needs of business.
UK Industrial Growth Strategy (2017)	The Industrial Strategy sets out a long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK. It sets out how the UK Government is working towards building a Britain fit for the future – how they will help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs in every part of the UK with investment in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future. The strategy includes five foundations: ■ Ideas: the world's most innovative economy ■ People: good jobs and greater earning power for all ■ Infrastructure: a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure ■ Business environment: the best place to start and grow a business ■ Places: prosperous communities across the UK The UK Government will use this strategy to work with industry, academia and civil society over the coming years to build on the UK's strengths, make more of untapped potential and create a more productive economy that works for everyone across the UK.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	This Strategy sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of “clean growth”, i.e. deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions. The Strategy has two guiding objectives: 1. To meet our domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers and businesses; and, 2. To maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK from this transition. In order to meet these objectives, the UK will need to nurture low carbon technologies, processes and systems that are as cheap as possible.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex Economy Plan (2020-2024)	The Economy Plan sets out our priorities for supporting the recovery and future prosperity of the West Sussex economy. It focuses on where the County Council is well placed to respond to the challenges facing the broader economy and on where we will seek to work collaboratively to make a difference. There are nine priority themes within the Plan: • Themes 1-3 reflect the economic landscape for Crawley and the wider Gatwick Diamond, and for the coastal and rural economies. • Themes 4-5 focus on supporting business start-ups, existing businesses, and employment and skills. • Themes 6-7 focus on two key sectors we will prioritise - the visitor economy, with its links to hospitality, and the health and social care market. Themes 8-9 focus on the opportunities around digital infrastructure and the application of digital technology to boost business productivity and enhance digital skills, as well as the importance of embedding climate change and the environment in our approach.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex Capital Strategy (2022-2027)	The West Sussex Capital Strategy drives the Council's strategic capital investment ambition to support the sustainable long-term delivery of services. The Strategy supports delivery of the Council Plan, the Council's vision for the county and its commitment to the communities of West Sussex as part of a suite of strategic financial management approaches that inform the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The Capital Strategy sets the framework for the identification, development and delivery of capital projects across all services. It supports and informs the control environment for delivering and reporting projects. The key principles of the Capital Strategy are: - Capital expenditure enables the achievement of the Council's priority outcomes in the Council Plan - Business intelligence data drives long-term asset planning to meet the needs of services - Maintenance of assets is vital to the integrity of the Council's approach to asset management and capital planning - Capital investment decisions are made within a clear framework ensuring value for money
West Sussex Education & Skills Strategy, 2023	A new Strategy is currently being developed for Education & Skills to outline how West Sussex County Council will support children and young people in their learning journey from Early Years to Adulthood. The new strategy will also respond to national changes in policy and practice and local issues and priorities, some of which have been compounded by the Coronavirus pandemic since 2020. The Education & Skills Strategy will provide leadership and foster a common vision in West Sussex. Our education provision needs to respond to local contexts, secure greater consistency and inclusivity so we meet needs, promote outcomes and overcome key challenges.

Table D-4 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes – Biodiversity and Natural Capital

International

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	The convention has three main aims which are stated in Article 1: ■ To conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats; ■ To promote cooperation between states; and ■ To give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.
Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') (1992)	The identification of a European network of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) to be designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). A SA would need to report on any potential effects on SACs and all development plans should aim to avoid adverse effects on them.
The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, for all biodiversity-related conventions, the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. The plan consists of five strategic goals of which 20 further Aichi goals which include: ■ Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity. ■ loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across Government and society. ■ Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. ■ Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. ■ Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. ■ Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Ramsar Convention on the Conservation on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)	The Ramsar Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation. It has three main pillars of activities: ■ The designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites. ■ The promotion of the wise use of all wetlands in the territory of each country; and ■ International co-operation with other countries to further the wise use of wetlands and their resources. While the initial emphasis was on selecting sites of importance to waterbirds, now non-bird features are increasingly taken into account, both in the selection of new sites and when reviewing existing sites.
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	The 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF) which includes four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030. The implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be guided and supported through a comprehensive package of decisions also adopted at COP 15. This package includes a monitoring framework for the GBF, an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing implementation, the necessary financial resources for implementation, strategic frameworks for capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation, as well as an agreement on digital sequence information on genetic resources. In adopting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, all Parties committed to setting national targets to implement it, while all other actors have been invited to develop and communicate their own commitments. At the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2024 in Türkiye, the world will take stock of the targets and commitments that have been set.
UNEP and ELD, State of Finance for Nature, 2022	Time to act: Doubling investment by 2025 and eliminating nature-negative finance flows. The State of Finance for Nature (SFN) 2022 report quantifies public and private finance flows to nature-based solutions (NbS) to tackle global challenges related to biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change. The SFN 2022 report reveals that if the world wants to halt biodiversity loss, limit climate change to below 1.5C and achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, current finance flows to NbS must urgently double by 2025 and triple by 2030.

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act, which became law in 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine better environmental protection into law. It provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. The Biodiversity Gain objective requires the biodiversity value attributable to a development to exceed pre-development biodiversity value by at least 10%.
HM Government, 25 Year Environment Plan, 2018	The 25 Year Environment Plan (YEP) outlines the UK Government's ambition: 'To leave our environment in a better state than we found it and the steps proposed to take to achieve that ambition.' The Plan includes ten key targets of which two focus on biodiversity. Thriving plants and wildlife: - Restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term; - Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits; - Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi and where possible to prevent human-induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories; - Increasing woodland in England in line with our aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042. Enhancing biosecurity: - Managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases; lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species; - Reaching the detailed goals to be set out in the Tree Health Resilience Plan of 2018; - Ensuring strong biosecurity protection at our borders, drawing on the opportunities leaving the EU provides; and - Working with industry to reduce the impact of endemic disease.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	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 Defra 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 us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. This improvement plan sets out the interim targets and the plan to deliver those goals, including measures such as: ■ A comprehensive delivery plan to halt the decline in nature by 2030; ■ A commitment to creating and restoring at least 500,000 hectares of wildlife habitat, with 70 new projects including 25 new or expanded National Nature Reserves; ■ A new pledge on access to nature with everyone to live no more than a 15 minutes' walk from a green or blue space; ■ The Species Survival Fund for domestic species at risk, like the red squirrel; and Five-year interim targets to drive progress towards our long-term targets.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) protect hundreds of wildlife sites in England—across millions of hectares of land, and over one hundred rare or vulnerable animal, bird and plant species. The Habitats Regulations cover the sites of greatest significance and international importance for nature, for which the UK has a special responsibility: breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, plus precious natural habitats that are at risk. The Regulations provide these sites with protection through the designations of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which provide protection to a variety of special species and habitats, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which provide protection for rare and vulnerable birds and their habitats. These protections also extend to internationally important wetland Ramsar sites as a matter of policy. These Habitats Regulations designations (SAC and SPA) give a higher level of legal protection than domestic protections, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), including through a legal requirement to assess potential impacts on protected sites (Habitats Regulations Assessment or HRA).
The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	As above but for marine habitats and species

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended 1981)	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain (NB Council Directive 79/409/EEC has now been replaced by Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version). The Act provides for the notification and confirmation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the protection of wildlife.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Makes provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities, wildlife, sites of special scientific interest, National Parks and the Broads, rights of way, and other functions relating to the environment and rural affairs. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (or the 'Biodiversity Duty') states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". You should be able to show your duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity if you have identified ways to integrate biodiversity when you: ■ Develop policies and strategies and put them into practice ■ Manage the planning system ■ Manage: – your land and buildings – woodlands and nature reserves – gardens, parks and public open space – community amenities e.g., sports grounds and cemeteries – waste and pollution – energy and water – wood and plant products ■ Develop infrastructure, such as roads, buildings or flood defences ■ Make decisions about procurement ■ Implement economic, environmental and social programmes

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Natural Environment White Paper (2011)	The aim of the White Paper is to set out a clear framework for protecting and enhancing the things that nature gives us for free. Four core themes: 1. Protecting and improving our natural environment 2. Growing a green economy 3. Reconnecting people and nature 4. International and EU leadership
Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network: Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS (2010)	Species and habitats should be restored and enhanced in comparison with 2000 levels. Improve the long-term sustainability of ecological and physical processes that underpin the functioning of ecosystems, thereby enhancing the capacity of ecosystem services. Provide accessible natural environments rich in wildlife for people to enjoy and experience.
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature: HM Government (2011)	Protect and enhance biodiversity through Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), biodiversity offsetting, Local Nature Partnerships and phasing out peat use. Place natural capital at the centre of economic decision making to avoid the unintended environmental consequences that arise from undervaluing natural assets.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
National Networks National Policy Statement (NN NPS) (2014)	NN NPS states that development should avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives. The applicant may also wish to make use of biodiversity offsetting in devising compensation to counteract impacts on biodiversity which cannot be avoided or mitigated. Where significant harm cannot be avoided or mitigated, as a last resort, appropriate compensation measures should be sought. Paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 of the NN NPS state that not only should national road and rail networks be designed to minimise social and environmental impacts, but that they should also seek to improve quality of life. In part this may be achieved by “reconnecting habitats and ecosystems [...] improving water quality and reducing flood risk, [...] and addressing areas of poor air quality.” Paragraph 5.162 recognises the potential for developments to provide positive environmental and economic benefits through the provision of green infrastructure. Paragraph 5.175 of the NN NPS highlights that green infrastructure identified in development plans should be protected and, where possible, enhanced.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	Paragraphs 180 and 185 to 188 of the NPPF require development to protect and safeguard biodiversity, and advise that development should aim to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity adequately through mitigation or, as a last resort, using compensation. Proposals which aim to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported. Recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services; minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the UK Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Paragraph 180 of the NPPF requires that planning decisions should be taken to enhance the natural environment by recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services. Further, Paragraph 181 requires plans to take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure networks and improving natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The State of Natural Capital: Restoring our Natural Assets; Natural Capital Committee (2014)	The report identifies that: - Some assets are currently not being used sustainably and the benefits that we derive from them are at risk; - There are major economic benefits to be gained from natural capital and that their value should be incorporated into decision making; and - A long-term restoration plan is necessary to maintain and improve natural capital for future generations.
The State of Natural Capital; Natural Capital Committee (2020)	In the report, the Natural Capital Committee sets out: - Despite some improvements, only limited progress has been made towards the 25 Year Environment Plan's goals. - Its advice to Government that biodiversity net gain should be expanded to environmental net gain. - Its advice that an England wide baseline of natural capital assets should be established to measure progress towards environmental goals. - Natural capital should be seen as infrastructure in its own right, in recognition of its contribution to economic wellbeing.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	The Environmental improvement plan 2023 (EIP 2023) represents the first review of the 25 Year Environmental Plan (25YEP). It reinforces the intent of the 25YEP. Where it sets out the framework and vision, the EIP 2023 sets out the plan to deliver. To achieve its vision, the 25YEP set out 10 goals. The EIP 2023 uses the 10 goals set out in the 25YEP as the basis for its review: setting out the progress made against all 10, the specific targets and commitments made in relation to each goal, and its plan to continue to deliver those targets and the overarching goals. The EIP 2023 has an apex goal of improving nature where it will halt the decline in biodiversity to achieve the thriving plants and wildlife goal. As part the apex goal, the plan aims to: ■ Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then increase abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042 ■ Launch the Species Survival Fund to create, enhance and restore habitats ■ Create, restore, and extend around 70 areas for wildlife through projects including new National Nature Reserves, and the next rounds of the Landscape Recovery Projects ■ Protect 30% of our land and sea for nature through the Nature Recovery Network and enhanced protections for our marine protected areas. We intend to designate the first Highly Protected Marine Areas this year ■ Implement the Environment Act 2021, including rolling out Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify areas to create and restore habitat, and Biodiversity Net Gain to enhance the built environment ■ Support a transformation in the management of 70% of our countryside by incentivising farmers to adopt nature friendly farming practices Publish an updated Green Finance Strategy, setting out the steps we are putting in place to leverage in private finance to deliver against these goals. We have a goal to raise at least £500 million per year of private finance into nature's recovery by 2027 and more than £1 billion by 2030

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The South Downs People and Nature Network (PANN)	The South Downs PANN aims to protect, enhance and create a network of green and blue spaces, which sustainably meet the needs of local communities, support natural ecosystem services and respects the special qualities of protected landscapes by proposing the strategic principles for the planning, delivery and management of natural capital assets in the area. The PANN identifies broad investment areas. The nature recovery work will complement the PANN but also looks at the core areas for wildlife and wider opportunities for delivery for nature across the National Park and beyond.
West Sussex Council Plan, 2021-2025	The Council Plan is West Sussex's corporate plan for 2021-2025. The plan sets out the priorities for the council and the outcomes we want to achieve for people who live and work in West Sussex. The plan focuses on four priorities, all of which are underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of protecting the environment: ■ Keeping people safe from vulnerable situations. ■ A sustainable and prosperous economy. ■ Helping people and communities to fulfil their potential. ■ Making the best use of resources. Also, As part of our overarching commitment to protecting our environment we will continue to deliver commitments in our Climate Change Strategy, in particular positioning the county as a place for innovation in green technology and renewable energy. We will take advantage of Government grants and 'green finance' options. We will also seek to encourage and enable the community and businesses to innovate and make decisions which optimise the use of renewable energy, reduce carbon impact and promote nature recovery and biodiversity.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Pollinator Action Plan 2019 - 2022	West Sussex is committed to helping to conserve the UK's pollinators by ensuring the council will consider the needs of pollinators in the delivery of its duties and work. West Sussex will seek to protect and enhance the amount and quality of pollinator habitat and manage its greenspace to provide greater benefits for pollinators. The West Sussex aims to: - Encourage local plans, policy and guidance to represent the needs of pollinators. - Protect and enhance the amount of pollinator habitat in West Sussex to prevent extinctions and improve the status of any locally threatened species. - Improve our knowledge and understanding of pollinators in our local area. - Increase awareness of pollinators and their habitat needs across local residents, businesses and other landowners. - Increase the contribution to pollinator conservation of land under the ownership of, or managed by, the county council.

Table D-5 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes - Landscape and Townscape

International

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
European Landscape Convention 2000 (Became binding March 2007)	The Council of Europe Landscape Convention promotes the protection, management and planning of the landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. Specific measures include: ▪ Raising awareness of the value of landscapes among all sectors of society and of society's role in shaping them. ▪ Promoting landscape training and education among landscape specialists, other related professions and in school and university courses. ▪ The identification and assessment of landscapes. ▪ Analysis of landscape change, with the active participation of stakeholders. ▪ Setting objectives for landscape quality, with the involvement of the public; and ▪ The implementation of landscape policies through the establishment of plans and practical programmes.

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	Goal 6: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment, is to “safeguard and enhance the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage.”
National Policy Statement for National Networks (NN NPS) (2014)	Paragraph 5.149 states that when judging the impact of a project on landscape, the decision is dependent on the nature of the existing landscape likely to be affected and the nature of the effect likely to occur. The project should aim to avoid or minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	Paragraph 180 of the NPPF requires developments to protect and enhance valued landscapes and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Paragraph 182 of the NPPF states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas. Paragraph 183 of the NPPF states that when considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.
Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to landscape use. Landscape Institute Position Statement (2013)	The Landscape Institute's most recent position statement, 'Green Infrastructure LI Position Statement 2013' sets out why GI is crucial to our sustainable future. The publication showcases a range of successful GI projects and shows how collaboration is key to delivering multifunctional landscapes. It also illustrates why landscape professionals should take the lead on the integration of GI.
Local Green Infrastructure: helping communities make the most of their landscape: Landscape Institute for Green Infrastructure Partnership (2011)	Communities should identify green infrastructure requirements in their local area through addition to or creative enhancement of the existing network. Look to enhance local landscape character, heritage and biodiversity and ensure long term management is included in an overall strategy.
Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play (2015)	Fields in Trust guidance, first published in the 1930s, is based on a broad recommendation that 6 acres (2.4 hectares) of accessible green space per 1,000 head of population enables residents of all ages to participate in sport and play; 75% of local authorities adopt this or an equivalent standard (2014 Fields in Trust / David Lock Associates Survey).

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A review and Toolkit for their implementation (2003) and Nature Nearby: Accessible Green Space Guidance (2010)	English Nature (now Natural England) recommends that provision should be made of at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1000 population according to a system of tiers into which sites of different sizes fit: ■ No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace; ■ There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home; ■ There should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km; and There should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
South Downs National Park Local Plan July 2019 (2014–33)	Relevant Policies include: ■ Strategic Policy SD4: Landscape Character - to ensure that all future development will conserve and enhance landscape character. ■ Strategic Policy SD5: Design - to ensure that all development is of the highest possible design quality which reflects and respects the exceptional quality of the natural, agricultural and built environment of the National Park. Proposals should adopt a landscape-led design approach and seek to enhance local character and distinctiveness of the area as a place where people want to live and work now and in the future. ■ Strategic Policy SD6: Safeguarding views - to ensure that development does not harm views or landmarks, to encourage conservation and enhancement of key view types and patterns, and to ensure development does not detract from the visual integrity, identity and scenic quality that are characteristic of the National Park.

Table D-6 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes – Historic Environment

International

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
UNESCO, The World Heritage Convention, 1972	This convention sets out a framework for the identification and designation of cultural or natural heritage sites of 'outstanding universal value' as World Heritage Sites.
The Valetta Convention, 1992	This convention outlines protection measures for archaeological heritage assets, including the development and maintenance of an inventory of sites. The aim of this convention is to protect sites for future study, outlines the requirements to report 'chance finds', as well as controlling excavations. The input of expert archaeologists into the making of planning policies and decisions is also required under this convention.
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, Granada (1985)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It affirms the needs for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. The convention considers comprising the following permanent properties, which are stated in Article 1: ■ Monuments: all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings; ■ Groups of buildings: homogenous groups of urban or rural buildings conspicuous for their historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, which are sufficiently coherent to form topographically definable units; and ■ Sites: the combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogenous to be topographically definable and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	Paragraph 196 of the NPPF requires plans to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Paragraph 201 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. Paragraph 205 of the NPPF states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be).
Planning Policy Guidance – Historic Environment (2019)	This sets out broad guidelines and advice on how to enhance and conserve the historic environment through plan making and decision making.
National Policy Statement for National Networks (NN NPS) (2024)	Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. For projects with the potential to affect nationally designated landscapes the relevant management plan(s) for these areas should be referred to for information to assist with the design of the scheme. Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure, design (including choice of materials), and topographical interventions (for example, creation of bunds or lowering of ground level). Also, landscaping schemes (including screening options and design elements that soften the built form such as green bridges), depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs for infrastructure should always be given careful consideration in terms of environmental standards.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to ancient monuments; to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and (in connection therewith) for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters; to provide for the recovery of grants under section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 or under section 4 of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 in certain circumstances; and to provide for grants by the Secretary of State to the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	This Act changed laws relating to the granting of planning permission for building works, with a particular focus on listed buildings and conservation areas. It created special controls for the demolition, alteration or extension of buildings, objects or structures of particular architectural or historic interest, as well as conservation areas.
Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953	An Act to provide for the preservation and acquisition of buildings of outstanding historic or architectural interest and their contents and related property, and to amend the law relating to ancient monuments and other objects of archaeological interest.
Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023	This Act allows for the amendment of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to require “special regard [be had] to the desirability of preserving or enhancing” the designated heritage assets set out in S.102.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
South Downs National Park Local Plan July 2019 (2014–33)	Relevant Policies include: ■ Strategic Policy SD12: Historic Environment - to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, including the safeguarding of heritage assets. ■ Development Management Policy SD13: Listed Buildings - to set out more detailed criteria for development proposals affecting listed building. ■ Development Management Policy SD14: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation of Historic Buildings - to set out more detailed criteria for development proposals that seek to improve the energy efficiency or adaptation of heritage assets to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change. ■ Development Management Policy SD15: Conservation Areas - to set out more detailed criteria for development proposals within or affecting conservation areas. ■ Development Management Policy SD16: Archaeology - to set out more detailed criteria for development proposals affecting heritage assets with archaeological interest.

Table D-7 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes – Water Environment

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	The Water Framework Directive (WFD) Regulations are an important mechanism for assessing and managing the water environment in the UK. It originates from the EU Water Framework Directive, but still forms part of UK law post-Brexit. The core aim of the Water Framework Directive is to protect the UK's water environments by preventing their deterioration and improving their quality.
The Floods and Water (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	These regulations aim to ensure that, following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, legislation in the fields of water and floods continues to operate correctly. To that end they amend four primary Acts (the Water Act 1989, the Water Industry Act 1991, the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Water Act 2014)
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	Paragraph 165 "... 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".
The Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act, which became law in 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine better environmental protection into law. It provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. Objectives for targets under consideration ■ reduce pollution from agriculture, in particular phosphorus and nitrate ■ reduce pollution from wastewater, in particular phosphorus and nitrate ■ reduce water demand ■ improve the quality of habitat on land, including freshwater and coastal sites, expressed through the condition of our protected sites (SSSIs) ■ improve the overall status of species populations on land and in freshwaters

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
National Policy Statement for National Networks (2014)	Paragraph 5.105 "... if there is no reasonably available site in Flood Zones 1 or 2, then national networks infrastructure projects can be located in Flood Zone 3, subject to the Exception Test. Both elements of the test will have to be passed for development to be consented..."
National Policy Statement for National Networks (2014)	Paragraph 5.109 "Any project that is classified as 'essential infrastructure' and proposed to be located in Flood Zone 3a or 3b should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood; and any project in Zone 3b should result in no net loss of floodplain storage and not impede water flows".
National Policy Statement for National Networks (2014)	Paragraph 5.224 "Activities that discharge to the water environment are subject to pollution control"
National Policy Statement for National Networks (2014)	Paragraph 5.225 "... impacts on the water environment should be given more weight where a project would have adverse effects on the achievement of the environmental objectives established under the Water Framework Directive".
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) - Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water'	"Improve at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable by: [...] Reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for biodiversity or drinking water".
Water Targets: Detailed Evidence Report, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2022)	The Environment Agency regularly assesses the water quality of the UK's waterbodies, however many of these are not achieving the required standards and are often prevented by a number of factors and are described as 'Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status (RNAGS)'. Such pressures include pollution from towns, cities and transport affecting 18% of water bodies.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Flood Risk Regulations (2009)	The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 was created to transpose the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) into domestic law in England and Wales. The Floods Directive provides a framework to assess and manage flood risks in order to reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment (including cultural heritage) and economic activity.
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires Risk Management Authorities to: ■ co-operate with each other. ■ act in a manner that is consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England and the local flood risk management strategies developed by Lead Local Flood Authorities ■ exchange information. Risk Management Authorities have flexibility to form partnerships and to act on behalf of one another.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan (2006)	The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a policy framework to address risks associated with coastal evolution in a sustainable manner with respect to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment. The objectives of the SMP are as follows: ■ Define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment of coastal evolution within the SMP area over the next century ■ Identify the preferred policies for managing those risks ■ Identify the consequences of implementing the preferred policies ■ Inform planners, developers and others of the risks of coastal evolution and of the preferred policies when considering future development of the shoreline, land use changes and wider strategic planning

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
South East River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) 2021 to 2027	The FRMP sets out how to manage significant flood risk in nationally identified flood risk areas within the South East of England.
Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) 2021 to 2027	The FRMP sets out how to manage significant flood risk in nationally identified flood risk areas spanning northern Oxfordshire and Gloucester, southwards to the north of Hampshire, across to the Thames Estuary and northern Kent in the east, and covers all of Greater London. Crawley Borough Council falls within this area.
West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013 – 2018)	The Strategy outlines how flooding is managed in the area. It focuses on local flood risk from surface water, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses. The strategy defines the roles and responsibilities of designated risk management bodies and riparian (private) owners. The Strategy sets out West Sussex’s flood risk responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Strategy aims to: - Understand the areas that flood - Manage the flood risk in West Sussex - Enable people communities, business and public bodies to work together more effectively - Put communities at the heart of what we do and help West Sussex residents during flood events, and recover as quickly as possible after incidents
Adur and Ouse Catchment Management Plan (2012)	The Catchment Management plan aims: - To improve the ecological status of coastal waters, enhance understanding and support for sustainable marine environments, and ensure the sustainable management of groundwater and surface water quality in the Adur and Ouse catchment. - It focuses on reducing groundwater pollution through sustainable land management, establishing a reliable evidence base, monitoring water quality, and addressing pollution from urban and rural sources. - The plan also targets the identification and mitigation of risks to fish populations, enhancing fisheries for recreational and economic benefits, and considering climate change impacts. - Additionally, it emphasizes re-naturalising water bodies, monitoring riparian and wetland habitats, and encouraging community involvement and awareness through engagement and empowerment.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Arun and western Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan	- Policy 1 - focuses on areas with minimal flood risk, emphasizing monitoring and advising without active intervention. - Policy 2 - applies to areas with low to moderate risk, suggesting a reduction in current flood management efforts to allocate resources more effectively. - Policy 3 - continues managing low to moderate risks effectively while staying adaptable to new information. - Policy 4 - targets areas where current management is effective but requires future actions to address increasing risks due to climate change. - Policy 5 - is for moderate to high-risk areas, advocating for further actions to reduce risks, necessitating detailed appraisal. - Policy 6 - involves collaborating with others to store water or manage runoff in low to moderate-risk areas, aiming for overall flood risk reduction and environmental benefits, implemented selectively after thorough evaluation.

Table D-9 - Relevant Plans, Policies, Strategies and Programmes – Air Quality

International

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008)	The Ambient Air Quality Directive provides the current framework for the control of ambient concentrations of air pollution in the EU. The control of emissions from mobile sources, improving fuel quality and promoting and integrating environmental protection requirements into the transport and energy sector are part of these aims.

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act, which became law in 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine better environmental protection into law. It provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. Objectives for targets under consideration: ■ Reducing the annual mean level of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in ambient air (as required by the Environment Bill) In the long-term, reducing population exposure to PM2.5
25 Year Environment Plan, HM Government (2018)	With regards to the transport sector, the 25 Year Environment Plan identifies four 'early' priorities through the 'Future of Mobility Grand Challenge'. These include encouraging new modes of transport; addressing the challenges of moving from hydrocarbon to zero emission vehicles; and Preparing for a future of new mobility services, increased autonomy, journey-sharing and a blurring of the distinctions between private and public transport.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	This Strategy sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of “clean growth”, i.e. deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions. Key Policies and Proposals in the Strategy: ■ Develop world leading Green Finance capabilities; ■ Develop a package of measures to support businesses to improve their energy productivity, by at least 20 per cent by 2030; ■ Improving the energy efficiency of our homes; ■ Rolling out low carbon heating; ■ Accelerating the shift to low carbon transport; ■ Delivering clean, smart, flexible power emissions; and Enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources.
National Policy Statement for National Networks (2014)	Paragraph 5.12 - Accords air quality considerations substantial weight where, after taking into account mitigation, a scheme would lead to a significant air quality impact in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/ or where they lead to deterioration in air quality in a zone/ agglomeration.
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	Addresses action to reduce emissions from transport “as a significant source of emissions of air pollution”, in-particular oxides of nitrogen (NOx) – which is responsible for high levels of NO2 in ambient air, especially in urban areas - and particulate (PM10 and PM2.5) emissions.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Breathing Better, West Sussex, 2019	In 2019, West Sussex with strong support from our district and borough partners published the Breathing Better document. The document was an action-oriented summary of the partnership approach to improving air quality in West Sussex. The original plan was intended to be a living document that all partners are committed to reviewing and developing as we make progress. The Breathing Better document focusses on sources of outdoor air pollution. There are a variety of different pollutants that impact air quality. The primary ones of concern are nitrogen oxides (NOX), particularly nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and particulate matter (PM).
West Sussex County Council's Carbon Management Plan (Achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030)	The plan is based on a long record of work to reduce our emissions. West Sussex was one of the first local authorities to set a carbon reduction target. West Sussex introduced a corporate wide energy and water management programme that assessed the energy performance of our estate, identifying areas where we could improve efficiency and operating costs. The council rolled out comprehensive programmes to improve the building management systems, improve insulation and upgrade lighting. There are four core principles which underpin the actions within this plan and are critical to our successful delivery of the goal of us mitigating climate change. ▪ Reduce our overall energy consumption; ▪ Reduce our demand for fossil fuel based energy; ▪ Contribute to a greener grid; Take positive action to sequester carbon in the natural environment.

Table D-8 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans for Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

International

Document	Key Messages / Issues
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (2012)	Developed countries commit themselves to reducing their collective emissions of six key greenhouse gases by at least 5%. Each country's emissions target must be achieved by the period 2008-2012. Doha Amendment saw parties commit to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020.
The Paris Agreement, 2015	Aims to limit the global warming change to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. However, countries aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C to reduce the impacts of global warming. The EU has committed to a binding target of a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.

National

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Environment Act (2021)	An Act to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.
25 Year Environment Plan	This 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats.

Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Horsham District Planning Framework	Horsham District Council is committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 26% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 to meet the commitments set out in the 'Acting Together on Climate Change Strategy, 2009. Policy 35 includes ■ Planning can have a key role in shaping places to help minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to the effects of climate change. This policy is an overarching policy, designed to ensure the impacts of climate change are fully considered and that all development is future proofed and able to recover from extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and heatwaves. ■ Developments should avoid adapting to the impacts of climate change in ways that would increase CO₂ emissions, for example through the widespread use of mechanical ventilation. Policy 36 includes ■ The development of renewable and low carbon energy is a key means of reducing the district's contribution to climate change. This policy sets out the requirement for development to minimise its energy use in accordance with the energy hierarchy and to incorporate renewable and low carbon energy supplies where technically and financially feasible. ■ Renewable and low carbon energy can encompass a wide range of technologies including combined heat and power (CHP); combined cooling, heat and power (CCHP); district heating, energy from waste, wind (large and small scale), biomass, solar (thermal and photovoltaics) and heatpump.

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
Mid Sussex District Plan 2014 - 2031	Renewable energy schemes were likely to be relatively small-scale and the local community could have a key role through Neighbourhood Plans or other local initiatives. Such projects could help support energy security, respond to fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions and provide a longer-term financial return for communities. The DP40: Renewable Energy Schemes includes Proposals for new renewable and low carbon energy projects (other than wind energy development – see below), including community-led schemes, will be permitted provided that any adverse local impacts can be made acceptable, with particular regard to: ■ Landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts, such as on the setting of the South Downs National Park and High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the appearance of existing buildings; ■ Ecology and biodiversity, including protected species, and designated and non-designated wildlife sites; ■ Residential amenity including visual intrusion, air, dust, noise, odour, traffic generation, recreation and access.

Table D-9 - Review of Legislation, Policy and Plans and Programmes – Material Assets

National

Document	Key Messages / Issues
Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act, which became law in 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine better environmental protection into law. It provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. Objectives for targets under consideration: ■ increase resource productivity ■ reduce the volume of 'residual' waste we generate
The England Trees Action Plan 2021	This action plan will help to shape the kind of country future generations will want to live in, alive with the formidable power of healthy trees. England will have at least 12% woodland cover by mid-century, contributing to net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Its conifer and broadleaf woodlands will be managed for biodiversity and other environmental benefits, along with providing sustainable sources of hardwood and softwood timber and woody products, which can be effective carbon stores and are already seeing increased demand for as we transition to a green economy.



Local

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan	West Sussex have worked in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority to produce the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan which sets out four key areas to shape the future of minerals activities in West Sussex: ■ A vision and strategic objectives for sustainable minerals development. ■ 10 policies to achieve the strategic objectives for minerals development in West Sussex (Policies M1-M10). ■ 15 development management policies to ensure no unacceptable harm to the environment, economy or communities of West Sussex (policies 12-26). ■ Four site allocations to help meet the need for soft sand and brick making clay (policy M11).
West Sussex County Council Carbon Management Plan	There are four core principles which underpin the actions within this plan: ■ Reducing the overall energy consumption ■ Reducing the demand for fossil fuel based energy ■ Contribute to a greener grid ■ Take positive action to sequester carbon in the natural environment

Document	Key Messages/ Issues
West Sussex County Council Energy Strategy	The strategy includes details of how the County Council will act on climate change and achieve net zero operation through its energy programme. It also addresses the 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: ■ 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. ■ Local energy resilience - delivering projects that help to ensure that our local energy supply is robust and secure.
The Chichester Local Plan	All development should be built in materials that are durable, selected to reflect local distinctiveness, result in a high-quality aesthetic, minimise future maintenance burden and are neatly and robustly detailed for durability. Selecting the right materials and detailing can greatly help new developments to fit harmoniously with their surroundings. Where the context and or site is particularly sensitive to change or the proposal is an extension to match the existing building the importance of material choice is likely to be even greater. The Policy P8 Materials and Detailing states ■ Respect and complement local distinctiveness, character, texture and colour of materials locally characteristic to the area; ■ Use materials that are low maintenance, specified appropriately for their level of exposure, weather favourably and mellow with age and have long-term durability to limit waste and maintenance burden; ■ Ensure where new, innovative or contemporary materials are proposed these are of high quality, well detailed and appropriate to their context;



2 London Square
Cross Lanes
Guildford, Surrey
GU1 1UN

wsp.com

PUBLIC