

**Agenda Item 15**  
**Report PC09/18**

Report to	<b>Planning Committee</b>
Date	<b>18 January 2018</b>
By	<b>Director of Planning</b>
Title of Report	<b>Draft Development Brief for the West Sussex County Council Depot and Former Brickworks Site, Midhurst</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To approve this draft Development Brief for consultation and, subject to any necessary changes, to approve its use for development management purposes</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1) Subject to any comments of the Planning Committee being addressed (the wording of which is delegated to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee) approve this draft Development Brief for consultation.**
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee, to consider the results of the consultation, make any minor changes and then approve the Development Brief for development management purposes as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. If major changes are required as a result of consultation a further report will be presented to Planning Committee.**

**I. Summary**

- I.1** Development Briefs are an established method of providing guidance to developers, the local community and stakeholders on how a Local Planning Authority wishes to see a particular site developed. Development Briefs help shape proposals from an early stage in the design process, guide decision making and help speed up the overall planning application process. They are a proactive way in which a Local Planning Authority can influence the development of a particular site and, once approved, they are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.
- I.2** The Pre-Submission version of the South Downs Local Plan allocates a number of sites for development. The SDNPA has given a commitment, through these site allocations, to produce Development Briefs for four sites as follows:
  - West Sussex County Council Depot and Former Brickworks Site, Midhurst allocated under emerging Policy SD81.
  - Land South of London Road, Coldwaltham allocated under emerging Policy SD64.
  - Holmbush Caravan Park, Midhurst allocated under emerging Policy SD82.
  - Land at Pulens Lane, Sheet allocated under emerging Policy SD89.
- I.3** The preparation of Development Briefs does not prejudice the consideration of these site allocations through the Local Plan process. Should, however, any of these four sites come

forward through the Local Plan a Development Brief provides guidance on how the site should be developed. If this site does come forward the final Development Brief would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Local Plan Core Document Library.

- 1.4 It is intended that the draft Development Brief presented here is updated in response to any comments received from Planning Committee and that it is then subject to a short consultation process running for 3 weeks, similar to the timeframe given to comment on planning applications. The consultation will invite feedback and comments from the Town Council, residents nearest to the site and from the landowner. Prior to the Development Brief being made final changes will be made as necessary following input and feedback received from the consultation.
- 1.5 The draft Development Brief is based upon the emerging Local Plan policy context for the site, includes site specific analysis, sets out the Authority's approach to contextual analysis and landscape led design and sets out the key principles that should be observed in any development on the site against the backdrop of the relevant Local Plan policies.
- 1.6 The work that has been undertaken on this draft Development Brief is a precursor to the more detailed, National Park wide design guidance which will be included in a Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). A draft of this document will be tabled late in 2018.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 As part of the Local Plan process Members considered that four proposed site allocations were of a scale and/or importance that warranted a Development Brief being prepared. This was in order to explore each site's constraints and opportunities and to communicate to developers in more detail the type of development expected, together with the Authority's site specific aims and expectations.
- 2.2 This draft Development Brief has been drawn up in collaboration with the Authority's Design Review Panel.

## **3. Development Brief - Depot and Former Brickworks Site, Midhurst**

- 3.1 This site comprises an irregular shaped plot of land on the western edge of Midhurst and on the northern side of Bepton Road, adjacent to its junction with Pitsham Wood and approximately 160m from the junction with the A286. The northern and western boundaries of the site adjoin Midhurst Common.
- 3.2 The site is 2.7 hectares in size and consists of two adjacent land parcels - namely the Depot and the former Brickworks both of which are underutilised, partly derelict and in need of regeneration. The Depot currently accommodates various local authority operations, with a small amount of office accommodation and a public household recycling facility. The former Brickworks (which closed in 1985) is currently occupied by a company that stores and processes aggregate.
- 3.3 Part of the site lies within the Stedham, Iping, Woolbeding Crescent Biodiversity Opportunity Area whilst the adjacent Midhurst Common forms part of a wider Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 3.4 The emerging Local Plan Policy SD81 states that development for approximately 65 to 90 dwellings will be permitted in principle, as will other complementary uses where they are justified and are shown to meet a local need.
- 3.5 The draft Development Brief is structured as follows:
  - Section 1.02 reiterates the Site Allocation Policy from the emerging Local Plan, including the broad development quantum that the site could accommodate together with a number of site specific requirements laid out in the emerging policy.
  - An explanation of the landscape led approach to design that is sought in the National Park is provided (section 1.03) and it is explained how this approach should directly influence the design of any development scheme. This to try and ensure that landscape character is well understood and integrated into development scheme designs.
  - General design principles that should be observed are also set out (section 1.03) with guidance being given on matters including vehicular access, connectivity, block structure,

street design, scale, car parking, materials and sustainability. Section 1.03 is the same in all four Development Briefs as it contains general details relevant to all four sites.

- An indicative vision (section 1.04) is given to help inform any development scheme on this site.
- In section 2 background information on the site is provided including its location, surrounding built form, landscape layers, landscape history, connectivity and an assessment of landscape sensitivity for this site.
- Section 3 provides site specific guidance and details how the Authority expects to see this site developed. It contains a design principles diagram that graphically shows key elements to be provided whilst comprehensive design principles that should be used to shape and guide the development of the site are also provided. Specific guidance and advice is provided in respect of landscape and biodiversity, access and connectivity, use and density, layout, scale, massing and form and architectural appearance and materials.
- Section 4 lists key, emerging Local Plan policies and provides references for further reading.

#### 4. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Three further draft Development Briefs (Land South of London Road, Coldwaltham; Pulens Lane, Sheet; and Holmbush Caravan Park, Midhurst) are presented to this Planning Committee.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	No – any work will be carried out in house.
Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	The draft Development Brief supports improvements to the built environment to improve access for all. This will be considered further should a planning application come forward.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	The draft Development Brief supports the orientation and layout of buildings to increase natural surveillance of public areas, in line with the principles of 'designing out crime'.
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy: 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly	The draft Development Brief supports and encourages sustainable design, helping us to live within environmental limits.

## 5. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
The Development Brief is seen as too prescriptive and stalls development of the site	Low	Medium	The draft Development Brief does not impose substantial additional requirements on developers but rather makes it clear what the Authority expects to see in the development of the site. Setting this out at an early stage gives clarity to developers and should make the planning application process (including pre-application discussions) more efficient.
A Development Brief is not produced and the Authority has no site specific guidance for the development of this site	Low	Medium	Prepare and approve a Development Brief.

### TIM SLANEY

#### Director of Planning

#### South Downs National Park Authority

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 Appendices I. Draft Development Brief - West Sussex County Council Depot and Former Brickworks Site, Midhurst - Standalone Document Pages 145-195  
 SDNPA Consultees Legal Services; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Director of Planning  
 External Consultees None  
 Background Documents [Pre-Submission South Downs Local Plan](#)  
[Chichester Local Plan \(1999\)](#)