

Wealden Local Plan - Issues, Options and Recommendations consultation

Introduction

The provision of infrastructure plays a big part in the planning for growth within Wealden. We need to improve existing facilities and services or provide new facilities and services where necessary to ensure that our roads, schools, health services, water and sewerage facilities, and emergency services, to name but a few, can provide for existing and new communities within the District.

Partnership working

We have been working with a number of infrastructure providers since 2006/7, through the development of the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan to understand the scope of existing facilities and services to support the growth that the Government needs us to accommodate.

We have been talking to key infrastructure providers in relation to the Issues and Options of the Wealden Local Plan review. Their views have been instrumental in helping to shape the growth strategy in the Plan. The issues raised by these Infrastructure Providers and in relation to issues we need to address further, who we will work with and work that is currently underway is provided in the **Infrastructure Issues paper** that accompanies consultation on the Wealden Local Plan Issues, Options and Recommendations document.

We are currently working or will work further, with infrastructure providers and Town and Parish Councils in relation to the infrastructure categories in the table opposite:-

Infrastructure Policy

We are proposing to:

- **replicate Policy WCS7 Effective Provision of Infrastructure** from the Core Strategy Local Plan

We are also proposing through the plan to have additional policies in relation to:-

- **Safeguarding land for Strategic Infrastructure Provision** - including rail links such as the Uckfield to Lewes Link, the Eridge to Tunbridge Wells link and the reinstatement of the Willingdon Chord.
- **Protecting Existing Infrastructure Provision** – such as Education and Health facilities, sports and leisure facilities and community facilities, to ensure that facilities are not lost.
- Policy to support the **Provision of Social and Community Infrastructure**, and
- Policy in relation to the **Provision of Green Infrastructure** – such as open space, walking and cycling routes, nature conservation areas etc.

Funding and phasing of infrastructure

We will work with Infrastructure providers to identify requirements, the phasing and funding of these facilities in relation to the growth shown in the preferred options in the Wealden Local Plan Review.

Funding for infrastructure will come from a number of sources including:-

- Contributions from developers that have already been collected.
- Funding that infrastructure providers receive from the Government – such as funding towards education.
- Funding bids to Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships – particularly for Highways and Transportation, Skills Training, Economic and Tourism initiatives.

- The new Community Infrastructure Levy – this provides a steady income from developers and also provides income to Parish and Town Councils or Neighbourhood Plan partnerships towards local infrastructure provision.

In addition, we will be working in partnership with other authorities and agencies to Lobby Government for improvements to and additional funding for essential infrastructure including road and rail projects, health care and hospital improvements and education provision, associated with the growth in the wider area.

Infrastructure Category		Specific Facility
Physical infrastructure	Transport	Road Network Bus Network Rail Network Cycling and walking infrastructure
	Housing	Affordable Housing Gypsy and Traveller accommodation
	Education	Further and Higher education Secondary education Primary education Early Years (nursery) education
	Health	Acute care and general hospitals Health centres/Primary care facilities
	Public Services	Emergency Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Fire • Ambulance Libraries Waste management and disposal
	Utility Services	Gas supply Electricity supply Water supply Waste water treatment Telecommunications infrastructure (including mobile phone and broadband provision)
	Renewable Energy	Biomass, solar, wind energy etc.
	Flood Defences	River Flood defences, Coastal defences etc.
Social infrastructure	Supported accommodation Social and community facilities - village halls, post offices etc. Sports Centres Open spaces Parks and play space Places of worship	
Green Infrastructure	Appropriate Assessment requirements Parks and Gardens Natural and semi-natural urban greenspace Green corridors Outdoor sports facilities Amenity Greenspace Provision for children and teenagers Allotments Churchyards and cemeteries Accessible countryside in urban areas River corridors Green roofs and walls Nature conservation and biodiversity	