

Wealden Local Plan Update – 19 January 2018

Following the Wealden Local Plan (WLP) updates circulated on 6 September, 12 October and 3 November, Wealden District Council (WDC) received initial input from Natural England shortly before Christmas on the environmental issues relating to Pevensey Levels and Lewes Downs.

In addition WDC also received an initial draft response from Natural England on the Ashdown Forest in the form of some comments and a number of technical questions concerning air quality. Natural England has made it clear that at this stage their comments are not complete. On this basis we have commenced dialogue with regards to some matters of legal interpretation and we are providing a response to the technical questions concerning air quality. The responses with regards to both legal interpretation and technical matters are also relevant to the Pevensey Levels and Lewes Downs and therefore dialogue is continuing in relation to these sites. In addition to this WDC has provided an updated draft report on ecology and air quality which provides additional clarification on the ecological analysis and conclusions. We await a full response from Natural England on their views on the Ashdown Forest environmental issues for input into the Habitat Regulations Assessment WDC are undertaking.

Natural England have indicated they aim to provide a written response on this by 16th February.

As a result it has been agreed that a provisional date of 25 April will be set for consideration of an updated Draft Wealden Local Plan by Wealden Full Council. Dates for the Local Development Plan Sub Committee and the Joint Planning Committee North and Planning Committee South meetings, which will need to take place prior to this, will be set in due course.

Nigel Hannam
Director Planning Policy and Economic Development
19 January 2018