

Screening Opinion Questionnaire for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

1. Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the regulations) the district council is required to determine whether or not a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently, whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required to be produced alongside the neighbourhood plan.
2. In order determine whether a SEA is required to be produced alongside a particular neighbourhood plan, the council drafts a Screening Opinion, which follows the procedures set out in the regulations. The draft Screening Opinion is then sent to English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency for comment. The final Screening Opinion is then published on the council's website.
3. If the Screening Opinion concludes that a SEA is required for the neighbourhood plan it is the responsibility of the neighbourhood plan steering group to produce a SEA that meets the regulations. From experience of neighbourhood plans so far, it is generally the case that if the plan is allocating sites then it will require a SEA, if sites aren't being allocated, a SEA might still be required.
4. It is particularly important that a Screening Opinion is published where it has found that a neighbourhood plan does not require SEA.
5. Please answer the following questions regarding the neighbourhood plan to enable the district council to draft a Screening Opinion.

1. Will the Neighbourhood Plan be allocating sites for the following uses?
Please state the estimated number of sites and units/sqm as appropriate.

Housing (no. of sites & no. of units)
Employment (no. of sites & sqm)
Retail (no. of sites & sqm)
Community uses (no. of sites & sqm)

2. Are any policies likely to affect a designated area (such as Conservation Area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Flood Zone 2 or 3, Site of Special Scientific Importance or the Green Belt etc)? If yes, please explain how.

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3. Do you know of any environmental issues in the neighbourhood area?

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4. Do you think the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects on the neighbourhood area?

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5. Briefly describe the main objectives of the plan

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6. How certain are you that there will be no significant changes to the information given above? If significant changes are made you should inform the Planning Policy Team as soon as possible to find out whether the plan needs re-screening.

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7. Are you allocating land in addition to that set for the area in the Adopted Development Plan, if so, how much and why?

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This information is correct to the best of our knowledge. If there are any significant changes to the information given we will inform the Council.

Signed: