



Design Supplementary Planning Document

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

July 2016

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement sets out the Council's determination under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for the Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.2 Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive)) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) specific types of plans that set out the framework for future development consent of projects must be subject to an environmental assessment.
- 1.3 There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level and for minor modifications if it has been determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.4 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. Where the Council determines that SEA is not required then under Regulation 9(3) the Council must prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination.

2.0 Design Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.1 The Design Guide document provides design principles and best practice to guide the design quality of development proposals. It elaborates on the design principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them.
- 2.2 Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design requires proposals to demonstrate how they will achieve good design, through Design & Access Statements, clear and informative drawings, including street-scenes, and other material that may define the future quality of development proposals, including concept statements, development briefs, masterplans or design codes.
- 2.3 The Design SPD focuses on design principles for built development in order to complement the other SPD documents that the Council has already adopted.
- 2.4 The Council intends to adopt the Design SPD following a thorough public consultation process. Once adopted, it will form part of the Council's policy context and will be a material consideration when applications are being considered. It is also intended to be of help to householders who may wish to make changes to their properties under their Permitted Development rights.

2.5 The scope covers:

- Design and Context
- Built Form and Spaces
- Extensions and Alterations
- Design and Access Statements

2.6 Design and Context, focuses on how development proposals should respond to their surroundings. This is relevant to all development proposals, for residential and commercial developments as well as for householder extensions and alterations.

2.7 Built Form and Spaces, provides general design principles for buildings and spaces, and how to relate them together to create positive places. It also provides principles for the design of buildings, and for the associated requirements that need to be accommodated on plot, such as parking, servicing and amenity space. It also provides guidance on the relationships with neighbouring properties. These design principles apply to all forms of development.

2.8 Extensions and Alterations, provides design principles for the design of residential extensions and alterations to existing properties.

2.9 Design and Access Statements, sets out the Council's expectations for Design and Access Statements where they are required to accompany a planning application.

3.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

The SEA Screening Process

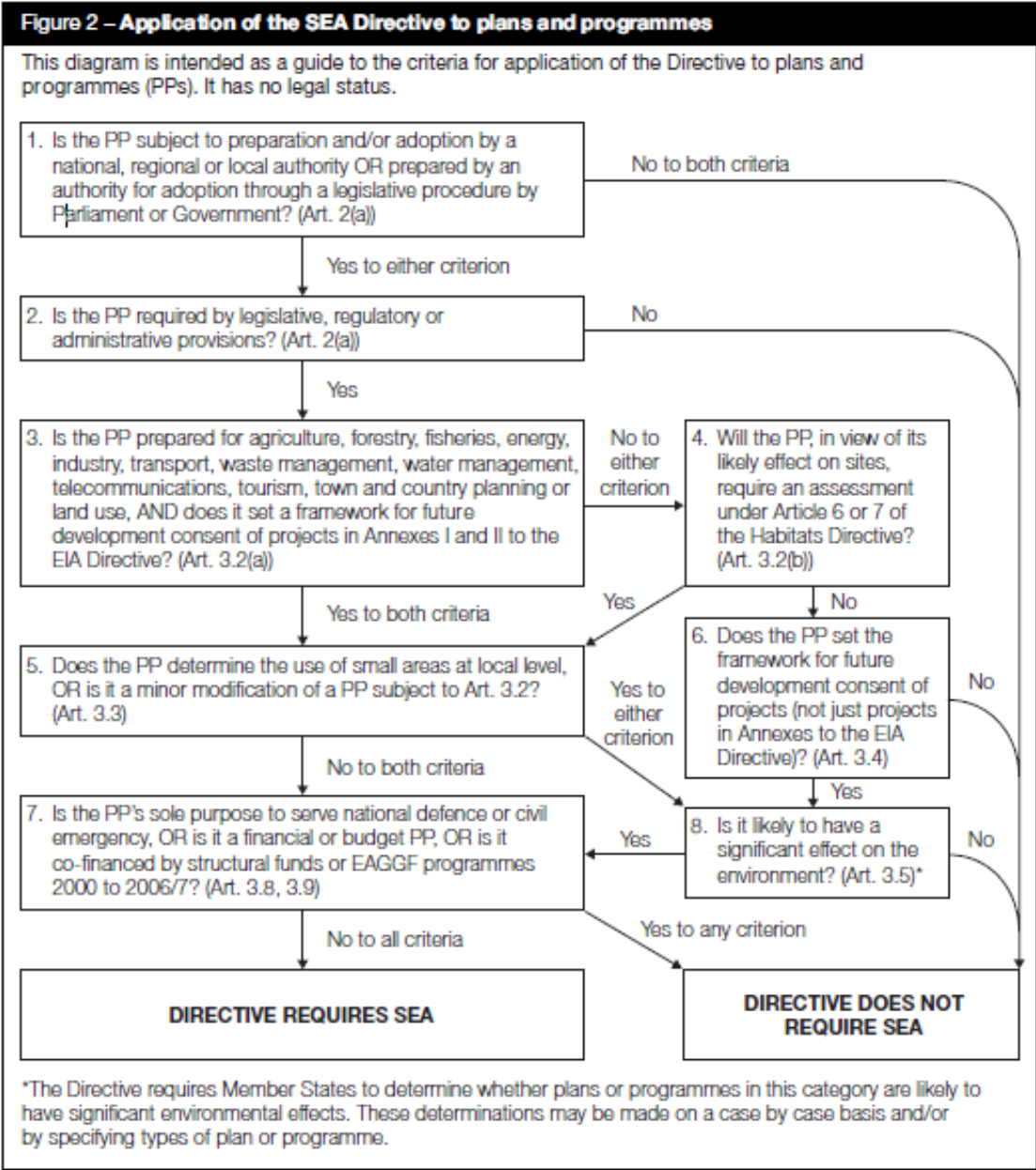
3.1 The process for determining whether or not a SEA is required is called screening. In order to screen, it is necessary to determine if a plan will have significant environmental effects using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule I of the Regulations. A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted.

3.2 Within 28 days of making its determination the authority must publish a statement setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.

3.3 This draft document is subject to consultation from 7 July 2016 to 18 August 2016 with the relevant bodies. Their comments will be included in a final version of this document, in which the Council will set out its final determination.

3.4 Practical guidance to the SEA Directive, published by the Department of Environment in 2005 but still relevant, provides a useful diagram of the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs) shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



3.5 The process in Figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1. This shows the assessment of whether the WNP will require a SEA. The questions in Table 1 are drawn from Figure 1 above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Assessment of Characteristics of a Neighbourhood Plan

Stage	Y/N	Reasoning
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The SPD is prepared by, and will be adopted by, the local authority.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? ((Art. 2 (a))	Y	The SPD is prepared under the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012. The process is prescribed by legislation. Once adopted, it will provide detailed guidance for the implementation of Core Strategy Policy CS7 for the area and be used when making decisions on planning applications in the area it covers.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes 1 and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2 (a))	Y	A SPD is primarily prepared for the purposes of town and country planning and land use. It influences the framework for development, including infrastructure development which may fall under no. 10 of Annex II of the EIA Directive as 'urban development' (for example, housing, community infrastructure or employment).
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The Design SPD elaborates on the design principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment which has been agreed with Natural England.
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at a local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art.3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The SPD may determine the use of small areas at a local level, for example the layout of a site.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	Y	Once adopted a SPD provides detailed guidance for the implementation of Development Plan policies and will be a material consideration in the decision making process on planning applications.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or	N	The SPD does not deal with these issues.

Stage	Y/N	Reasoning
budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8. 3.9)		
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art.3.5)	Y?	A SPD could potentially have an effect on the environment. However, whether this is significant depends on the proposals within the SPD. This requires detailed assessment – (see Table 2).

3.6 The conclusion of the assessment in Table 1 is that depending on the content of the Design SPD, an SEA may be required. For this reason a specific assessment of the Design SPD is required to determine the likely significant effects.

Likely Significant Effects

3.7 To decide whether the Design SPD might have significant environmental effects, its potential scope should be assessed against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Using the information available at the current stage of preparation (see Section 2 for the broad scope of the Design SPD at the internal consultation draft stage), the assessment in Table 2 has been made:

Table 2: Assessment of likely significant effects against Schedule 1 criteria

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:		
1a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	The Design SPD elaborates on the design principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).
1b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
		expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).
1c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	<p>Principles set out in the Design SPD are planned to have a positive impact on the integration of environmental considerations (e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable approach to construction, water efficiency, flexible and adaptable accommodation).</p> <p>The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. Core Strategy Policy CS7 itself aims to have a positive impact on the integration of environmental considerations; the SPD just provides more detail on how this should be achieved. The Design SPD does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).</p>
1d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme:	No	<p>Providing further detailed design guidance to the existing development framework, is not likely to exacerbate environmental problems (such as the condition of European sites, or Air Quality Management Areas).</p> <p>The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council</p>

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
		expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).
1e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	The Design SPD is not relevant to the implementation of Community legislation and does not allocate potentially polluting development.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:		
2a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	No	The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).
2b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).
2c) the transboundary nature of the effects	No	The extent of any effects will be within the borough boundary. The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
		Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).
2d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	<p>No risks to human health or the environment have been identified as a result of policies in the Design SPD.</p> <p>The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).</p>
2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	<p>The Design SPD is only concerned with development within Bracknell Forest borough.</p> <p>The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA).</p>
2f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to – i) special natural characteristics	No	The Design SPD is applicable to development within the whole of Bracknell Forest borough, which includes many conservation areas

Schedule 1 Criteria	Likely to have significant environmental effects?	Comments
<p>or cultural heritage ii) exceeded environmental quality standards of limit values; or iii) intensive land-use.</p>		<p>and listed buildings. Some environmental quality standards within the borough are not being met (e.g. Water Framework Directive objectives, air quality standards).</p> <p>The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) which included the assessment of these issues.</p>
<p>2g) the effects on areas of landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	No	<p>The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA), including effects on areas of landscape.</p>

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 Having reviewed the criteria, the Council has concluded that the emerging Design SPD is not likely to have a significant environmental effect and accordingly will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The Design SPD elaborates on the design policies and principles set out in both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Core Strategy Policy CS7 Design and sets out how development proposals can achieve them. It does not present any policies, and serves only to provide greater clarity about the council expectations in relation to existing policies within the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has already been subject to full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) and assessed as having no significant environmental effect.

APPENDIX A

Consultation Response from Natural England

APPENDIX B

Consultation Response from Historic England

APPENDIX C

Consultation Response from the Environment Agency