

Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - Determination Statement

This determination statement has been produced to assist in complying with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Regulations implement European Directive 2001/42/EC. This requires that the effect on the environment of certain plans and programmes should be assessed, including plans prepared for town and country planning or land use. An exception is made for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level, if the responsible authority has determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

This determination statement sets out the reasons why Dorset Council (the responsible authority) considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required with respect to the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review.

Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd has prepared a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report, in relation to the neighbourhood plan review, on behalf of Pimperne Parish Council (the Qualifying Body). In November 2021, the statutory consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were consulted, as required by the regulations, on a draft version of the report. As set out in the final version of the SEA/HRA Report, submitted with the plan review and available via:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/neighbourhood-planning/submitted-plans/pimperne-neighbourhood-plan>, all three statutory bodies responded to the consultation. The Environment Agency and Natural England both set out that they consider that, in terms of their strategic environmental interests, the proposed plan review is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects.

Historic England, in its response, defers the issue of whether a full SEA of the plan review is required to Dorset Council. However, Historic England do state that if it is concluded that a full SEA is not required it would have no objection to this outcome. Furthermore, Historic England state that the proposed policy modifications do not in any other respect generate issues upon which it wishes to comment.

Dorset Council has considered Historic England's comments in detail, including its point about the potential that the baseline context, which informed the original SEA of the first version of the neighbourhood plan, may have changed in respect of

heritage (or other) assets or receptors, or in terms of an understanding of their significance and therefore their susceptibility to impact. Whilst Dorset Council notes the points made, for the reasons set out in the final version of the SEA/HRA Report, it considers that the plan review is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects on heritage assets.

In conclusion, having reviewed the final version of the SEA/HRA Report, including the responses from the statutory consultation bodies, and having taken into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the regulations, as required by Regulation 9(2)(a) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Dorset Council considers that a SEA of the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review is not required.

NOTE: The statement is based on the information provided. If the proposed content of the plan is revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (e.g. the designation of any additional nature conservation or other environmental sites), then the comments contained in this statement would need to be reconsidered in order to take account of the changes

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) – Determination Statement

Schedule 2, paragraph 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 sets out the prescribed basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

In its response to being consulted on the draft SEA/HRA Report, Natural England stated:

‘Natural England agrees with the report’s conclusions that the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect upon any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.’

On the basis of the findings of the final SEA/HRA report, including Natural’s England’s response to the consultation on the draft report, Dorset Council considers that a HRA of the plan review is not required.