

Melton Borough Council

Melton Sustainable Neighbourhoods Supplementary Planning Document Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

June 2019

1. The Purpose of this Report

1.1 This screening statement has been prepared to determine whether the proposed Melton Sustainable Neighbourhoods Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations).

1.2 The purpose of the Melton Sustainable Neighbourhoods SPD is to help ensure consistent interpretation and effective delivery of the policies in the Melton Local Plan that are relevant to the sustainable neighbourhoods. The Melton Local Plan was adopted in October 2018 and is for the period 2011-2036. Together the sustainable neighbourhoods are intended to deliver at least 3700 new homes, and 52% of all the housing proposed in the Borough during the plan period.

1.3 There are 2 key policies in the Local Plan related to the sustainable neighbourhoods :

- Policy SS4: Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood
- Policy SS5: Melton North Sustainable Neighbourhood

1.4 In addition, there are several other policies that are applicable in these areas:

Policy C2: Housing Mix

Policy C3: National Space Standard and Smaller Dwellings

Policy C4: Affordable Housing Provision

Policy C8: Self Build and Custom Build Housing

Policy C9: Healthy Communities

Policy EN1 : Landscape

Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network
Policy EN4: Areas of Separation
Policy EN7: Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Policy EN8: Climate Change
Policy EN9: Ensuring Energy Efficient and Low Carbon Development
Policy EN11: Minimising the Risk of Flooding
Policy EN12: Sustainable Drainage Systems
Policy EN13: Heritage Assets
Policy IN1: Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy
Policy IN2: Transport, Accessibility and Parking
Policy IN3: Infrastructure Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy
Policy IN4: Broadband
Policy D1: Raising the Standard of Design

- 1.5 Once adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The SPD will use text, plans and graphics to illustrate the broad amount and arrangement of land uses and infrastructure that will be needed overall in each sustainable neighbourhood. It will also set out the design standards that each constituent development will be expected to reflect.
- 1.6 The SPD will be of specific interest to land promoters, developers, architects and agents looking to bring forward development, and to local residents and infrastructure service providers.

2. Strategic Environmental Assessment – Regulatory Requirements

- 2.1 The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 2.2 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations). Detailed guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM, 2005).
- 2.3 Paragraph 11-008 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG 2014), states that "supplementary planning documents do not require sustainability appraisal but

may in exceptional circumstances require a strategic environmental assessment if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the local plan". It goes on to say "A strategic environmental assessment is unlikely to be required where a supplementary planning document deals only with a small area at a local level, unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects.

3. The Strategic Environmental Appraisal Process

- 3.1 The first stage of the process is for the Council to determine whether or not the SPD is likely to have significant effects on the environment. This screening process includes assessing the SPD against a set of criteria (as set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations). The results of this are set out in Appendix 1 of this statement. The aim of this statement is therefore to provide sufficient information to demonstrate whether the SPD is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 3.2 The Council also has to consult the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England on this screening statement. A final determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted.
- 3.3 Where the Council determines that a SEA is not required, Regulation 9(3) of the SEA Regulations states that the Council must prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination. This statement is Melton Borough Council's Draft Regulation 9(3) statement.

4. Other Regulatory Considerations

Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.1 As there is no statutory requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Melton Sustainable Neighbourhoods SPD, the Council is not proposing to undertake it. Sustainability appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) of all the local plan policies that relate to the sustainable neighbourhoods was carried out during the preparation of the local plan, and the content of the SPD is not new policy, but rather guidance on the interpretation of the local plan policies. The report containing the findings can be found in the documents on the following links:
[Sustainability Appraisal related to the Pre Submission Draft of the Melton Local Plan](#)
[Sustainability Appraisal related to local plan addendum of focused changes](#)
[Sustainability Appraisal Addendum relating to Local Plan Main Modifications](#)
[Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement](#)

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 4.2 In addition to SEA and SA, the Council is required to consider Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). HRA is the process used to determine whether the plan or

project would have significant adverse effects on the integrity of internationally designated site of nature conservation importance, known as European sites. The need for a HRA is set out within the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which transposed EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law.

- 4.3 As with the SA, the Local Plan was also subject to a comprehensive HRA. The HRA found that development of the sustainable neighbourhoods as part of the local plan as a whole, could possibly have significant effects on Rutland Water Special Protection Area and Ramsar site in relation to physical disturbance/loss of habitat (offsite) and non-physical disturbance (offsite) from development and air pollution from increased vehicle traffic. It also found it was possible that there could also be significant effects on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC as a result of erosion/trampling or general disturbance from increased recreation activities. However, the subsequent appropriate assessment concluded that taking account of mitigations included in the policies, these potential effects would not occur or were not expected to occur.
- 4.4 As the purpose of this SPD is to expand upon policies that the above conclusions relate to, the Council has determined that a HRA is not required.
- 4.5 More information on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Melton Local Plan 2011-2036 can be viewed on the Council's website:
<https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/evidencebase> and
<https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/mods>

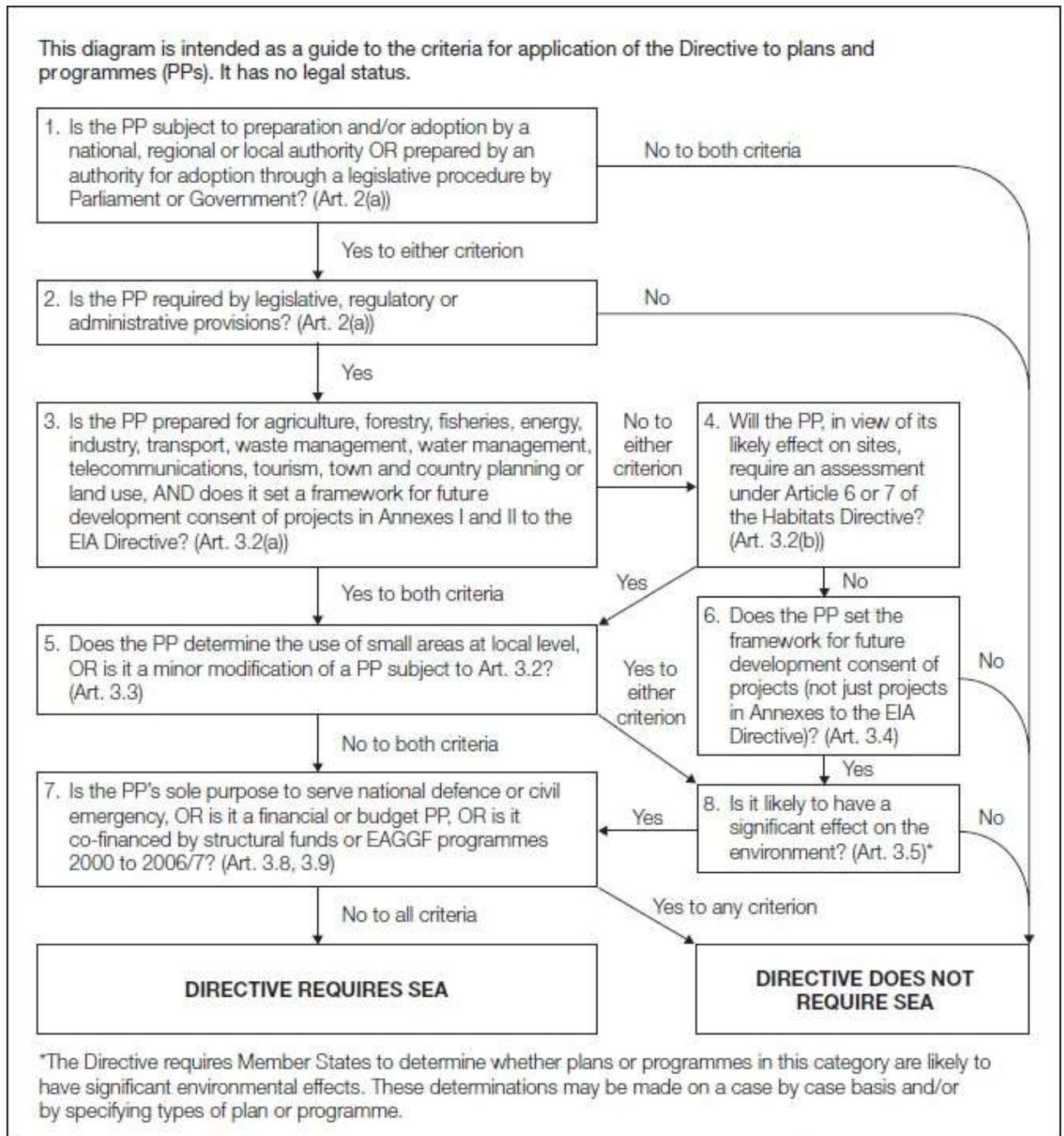
5. Conclusion

- 5.1 On the basis of the screening process set out in Appendix 1 (Figure 1 and Table 1), it is the Council's opinion that the Melton Sustainable Neighbourhoods SPD does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment, nor a Sustainability Appraisal nor a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Appendix 1

SEA Screening of the Melton Sustainable Neighbourhoods SPD

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



(source: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM 2005)

Table 1: Establishing whether there is a need for SEA

Stage	Yes/No	Assessment
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))	Yes to either criterion: proceed to question 2	Yes. The SPD is being prepared for adoption by Melton Borough Council.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	No:	No. The preparation of SPD is at the discretion of the Council as local planning authority. There is no specific commitment in the adopted Local Plan to prepare the masterplans for the sustainable neighbourhoods as SPD. Directive does not require SEA.

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