



Horsham
District
Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Screening Opinion

Many thanks for your screening opinion and for providing an indication of what the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is aiming to achieve.

The EU legislation under Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, Paragraph 2 of the SEA Regulations 2001/42/EC states that an SEA is mandatory for plans/programmes which are: are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive.

To ensure compliance with the legislation, HDC have taken a uniform approach to screening and require all NDP's allocating sites for housing development to undertake an SEA.

We also recommend a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is also carried out as this will help demonstrate how the NDP accords with the principles of sustainable development. These two processes can be carried out in conjunction in a combined SA/SEA, which is our preferred approach.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the Scoping Report and would be happy to review a Draft prior to the formal submission of the NDP. We recommend the District's SA Scoping Report is used as a starting point for your SA work.

With regard the Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRA), if the Plan area is within a 15 km search area of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status (Natura 2000 (N2K) sites or European Sites), a HRA may be required.

Please refer to the HRA: A toolkit to support HRA Screening and Appropriate Assessment of Plans http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pdf/Environment_Planning/LDP-Examination-Documents/SEW4.pdf

Should a HRA be required we would advise early consultation with Natural England.