

**Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Consultation  
Submission Draft (December 2024)**

**Strategic Environment Environmental Assessment (SEA)  
Screening Report**

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes requires an environmental assessment to be made of certain plans or programmes. The objective of SEA, as defined in the Government's guidance on strategic environmental assessment, is 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development' (Article 1). The SEA Directive has been transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal: Sustainability appraisal requirements for neighbourhood plans (2019) states that 'in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.'

## 2.0 Screening Process

- 2.1 Newark & Sherwood District Council, as the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA), has provided the following opinion on whether the proposed Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan will require a SEA. Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 3.0 Screening

**Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA**

<b>Environmental Regulations Paragraph</b>	<b>SEA Requirement</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2	Is the Plan: (a) Subject to the preparation or adoption by an Authority at national, regional or local level or; (b) Prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government; and, in either case, (c) Required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes, the Plan is subject to preparation and adoption at the local level. There are legislative and regulatory provisions in place for Neighbourhood Plans.
5(2)	Is the plan (a) prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, and does it (b) sets the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to	Yes, the Plan is prepared for town and country planning purposes and contributes towards the setting of the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC (urban development projects) within the Neighbourhood Area.

	Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC(9)?	
4(c)	Is the plan or programme likely to have significant environmental effects?	No. The amendments and proposed new content to the Plan are likely to have positive environmental effects through a variety of policies that promote the achievement of sustainable development. The plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects
6	Does the plan (a) determine the use of a small area at local level; or (b) is a minor modification to a plan or programme of the description set out in either of those paragraphs?	a) Yes, the Plan determines the use of a small area of land at local level. (b) The Plan once 'made' would in effect be a minor modification to the Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework.
5(3)	Has it been determined that the plan requires an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	No (see HRA screening opinion).
<p>The Local Planning Authority has concluded that the proposed Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required. The criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been taken into account in reaching this conclusion. Under regulation 9(2)(b) the consultation bodies must be consulted on this conclusion prior to the Local Planning Authority making a formal determination.</p>		

#### 4.0 Significance of effects on the environment

- 4.1 To decide whether a draft Neighbourhood Plan 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, or Annex II of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 4.2 When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects, the Local Planning Authority should consult the statutory consultation bodies. Where the Local Planning Authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination. Where a statement of reasons is provided in respect of a Neighbourhood Plan a copy of the statement should be provided to the Qualifying Body in order that the statement can be made available to the independent examiner; for example, by including it in the basic conditions statement.
- 4.3 Where a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment a Strategic Environmental Assessment must be carried out. The following table explores the potential scope of the proposed Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

**Table 2: Schedule 1 Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment**

SEA Requirement	Comments
<b>1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -</b>	

<p>(a) 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;</p>	<p>The Plan would, if ‘made’, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such would contribute towards the framework for future development consent of projects within the Neighbourhood Area. The plan sits within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework and the adopted Amended Core Strategy DPD (2019) and the adopted Allocations &amp; Development Management DPD (2013).</p> <p>This Plan will have some impacts on the environment, however it is deemed that these impacts will not be significant due to their small, localised nature. Policies within this Plan, as well as policies at the local and national level, also work to ensure these impacts are mitigated to ensure the continued sustainability of the area.</p>
<p>(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</p>	<p>The Plan will form part of the Development Plan, and the content needs to be in general conformity with its adopted strategic policies. No site allocations are proposed. The Plan therefore compliments other plans and programmes – rather than directly influencing them.</p>
<p>(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The Plan will promote sustainable development – and sets out a vision for its achievement through ‘Policy 1: Sustainable Development’. This is supplemented by specific content across various policies- addressing environmental matters, design and heritage, transport and access, community facilities and open space, housing, and employment.</p>
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and</p>	<p>Winthorpe with Langford and its setting has a rich historic environment. Much of the village of Winthorpe has been designated a Conservation Area. The policies of the Plan aim to ensure that new development protects the historic character of the village and encourages development which will not increase the risk of flooding.</p>
<p>(e) 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)</p>	<p>This Plan has no relevance to the implementation of Community legislation.</p>
<p><b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -</b></p>	
<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>Effects are likely beyond the proposed plan period (2023-2033). There is a high probability of positive effects as once ‘made’ the Plan will form part of the Development Plan and be used</p>

	to determine planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. The effects are not likely to be reversible as they relate to development. However they will be of a local scale.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effect of this Plan and the rest of the Development Plan will result in positive effects.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	There will be minimal transboundary effects; as the Plan covers the Neighbourhood Area. It is likely that the effects of the Plan will be related to this area.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The Plan poses no risk to human health.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Plan relates to the Neighbourhood Area, which has a population of 750. It is likely that the modest effects of the plan will be related to this area.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	<p>The Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural and cultural heritage. If anything it will provide greater support to and enhance the setting and identify of the area by supporting the enhancement of its existing environmental and community assets.</p> <p>The policies of the Plan aim to ensure that new development protects the historic character of the village and encourages development which will not increase the risk of flooding.</p> <p>The Plan does not provide specific policies in relation to intensive land uses.</p>
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no areas or landscapes with recognised national, Community or international protection status.

## 5.0 Screening outcome

5.1 The proposed Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan will determine the use of a small area at local level and is effectively a minor modification to the District-wide Development Plan for Newark & Sherwood. Taken together the content of the Plan will result in in positive, long-term effects. However, none of these effects will be significant. Therefore, the LPA has concluded that due to its nature, the proposed Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan will not require an assessment of its environmental effects under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment Regulations.