

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

SEA Screening Stage 2: Testing whether the Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers NDP is likely to give rise to significant effects (*SEA Directive Article 3 (5) Annex II-Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan or NDO.*)

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
1	Characteristics of a Neighbourhood Plan		
A	Degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The plan would set a framework for future consent of development projects but within a hierarchy of plans.	N
	Aims/ Objectives	N – the Plan is very much about protecting and enhancing the status quo, with a positive attitude towards incremental change.	N
	Site allocations for development	N – the Plan does not allocate any sites for development	N
	Design policies/ standards/codes	N – while the Plan acknowledges modern innovative design, the overall tone is about development which is sensitive to its location, so it is very unlikely that this would lead to significant environmental effects.	N
	Landscape protection/ enhancement policies	N – four policies (2.2, 2.3, 3.1 and 6.1) specifically	N

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary NB instructions to officer completing tables in italic type. Standard response applicable in normal type	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
		mention no adverse impact on rural character or the landscape, and this approach is inherent in other policies	
	Protected land designations	N – policy 5.2 refers to the protection of Bobbingworth Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Sites and to opportunities for enhancing their biodiversity.	N
	Linkages/ Green infrastructure proposals	N – policy 4.3 encourages proposals which will improve public rights of way and policy 5.1 refers to the designation of Local Green Spaces	N
	Community facilities	N – this issue is not addressed by the policies of the plan	N
	Rural affordable housing on rural exception sites, conversion of redundant buildings into residential accommodation and replacement dwellings	N – generic policies which do not identify particular sites or buildings and which stress sensitivity to surroundings	N
B	Degree to which this influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	Neighbourhood Plans are locally driven and will, inevitably, cover a small, defined locality/neighbourhood. In practice, Neighbourhood Plans provide detailed policy, land use or development management direction at the smallest “neighbourhood” level. These should by	N

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary NB instructions to officer completing tables in italic type. Standard response applicable in normal type	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
		definition have regard to and be in general conformity with, “higher level” policies/ programmes, but will not, by themselves, influence other more strategic policies/ programmes.	
C	Relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<p>The “basic conditions” (that a Neighbourhood Plan must meet) require that Neighbourhood Plans must “have regard” to sustainable development. For a plan to pass examination , an examiner must be satisfied that the effective implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan would give rise to sustainable developments.</p> <p>Several of the policies recommend the use of “current, sustainable and renewable technologies (1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2 and 2.3). Policy 6.1 specifically addresses renewable energy installations. Policy 2.4, in the interests of pursuing sustainability, advises that there should be no loss or degradation of all grades of agricultural land, unless there are exceptional circumstances.</p>	N
D	Environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan	The northern and southern parts of the Plan area are included in Flood Risk Assessment Zones as identified in the Local Plan Alterations 2006. However, as the Plan is not proposing any significant developments, this is very unlikely to have significant environmental implications.	N

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary NB instructions to officer completing tables in italic type. Standard response applicable in normal type	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
E	Relevance for the Implementation of Community Legislation (European Community) on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	Strategies/ policies relating to waste disposal or water protection are dealt with by Essex County Council. EFDC has strategies in place relating to waste collection and environmental protection. Community plans may identify specific local environmental concerns or issues, but these are generally not issues which could be addressed through a Neighbourhood Plan.	N
2	Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected having regard , in particular to:		
F	the probability, duration , frequency and reversibility of any effects	While the plan does address housing issues, the development of small businesses and farm diversification, no specific development sites or schemes are identified. It therefore seems very unlikely that there will be issues with potential effects.	N

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary NB instructions to officer completing tables in italic type. Standard response applicable in normal type	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
G	the cumulative nature of any effects	As with F above, there are no specific proposals to consider, so it is not possible to consider potential cumulative effects.	N
H	the trans-boundary nature of any effects	As there are no specific proposals it is not possible to assess potential trans-boundary effects.	N
I	the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents, impact on air quality)	Strategies/ policies relating to waste disposal or water protection are dealt with by Essex County Council. EFDC has strategies in place relating to waste collection and environmental protection. No issues of significance are proposed by this plan.	N
J	the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	As no development sites have been identified, it is not possible to assess this issue.	N
K	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:		
	special natural characteristics (e.g. biodiversity, water resources) or cultural heritage;	There are no specific proposals in the plan, so the potential impact on all these factors cannot be assessed.	N

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary NB instructions to officer completing tables in italic type. Standard response applicable in normal type	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
	exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;	As the comment immediately above	N
	intensive land-use.	As above	N
L	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	There are no such landscape designations in the district, but in any event, protection of landscape character is covered by the NPPF.	N

SEA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans OR Neighbourhood Development Orders

SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary NB instructions to officer completing tables in italic type. Standard response applicable in normal type	Conclusion- Significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
Potential site allocations for development	There are no site allocations in the Plan.	N
Potential design policies	The policies in the plan promote sensitivity to surroundings, but also allow for innovative designs.	N
Linkages/ green infrastructure proposals	The Plan proposes 3 Local Green Spaces and improvements to the rights of way network.	N
Community facilities	This issue is not addressed in the plan.	N