

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Part 9 Determination of Likely Significant Environmental Effects

Determination and Statement of Reasons under Part 9 (1) and (3)

Draft Supplementary Planning Document No 1. Housing

Draft Supplementary Planning Document No.2 Householder Extensions and Alterations Part 9 (1) Determination

Stockton on Tees Borough Council has determined, having consulted Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England, that the Draft Supplementary Planning Document No 1. Housing and Draft Supplementary Planning Document No.2 Householder Extensions and Alterations are not likely to have significant environmental effects. Accordingly, it is considered that an environmental assessment of the SPDs is not required.

Part 9 (3) Statement of Reasons

1. The preliminary SEA Screening Report contains the detail of the assessment and reasons. This statement is made to satisfy Part 9 (3) of the Regulations.
2. In making the determination, the Council has taken account of the fact the 'Parent Policies', Strategies and Priorities to which the SPDs relate have, in the course of their preparation, been subject to Sustainability Appraisal including SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (with Appropriate Assessment).
3. The Council determined at **Stage 1** of the Screening Process that SEA **is relevant to the SPDs**. The Council's opinion at **Stage 2** is that the Housing SPD and Householder Extensions and Alterations SPD are **unlikely to cause significant environmental effects** in their application to decision taking, particularly as the parent policies in the adopted Stockton on Tees Local Plan have very recently been subject to rigorous assessment in this respect both in preparation and in their final form through formal Examination in Public.
4. The Housing SPD will provide information on the interpretation and implementation of the Council's Local Plan policy H4 which seeks to meet the Borough's resident's housing needs. The Householder Extensions and Alterations SPD will provide information on the interpretation and implementation of the Council's Local Plan policies SD3 Housing Strategy, SD5 Natural, Built and Historic Environment and SD8 Sustainable Design Principles through which the Council seeks to ensure that new development is designed to the highest possible standard, and takes into account of the need to conserve and enhance all aspects of the environment as well as the amenity of the residents in the Borough. Neither document makes 'new' policy or allocates or establishes policies for the development of sites or areas of the Borough.

5. The documents refer to the design, tenure and layout of housing and associated extensions and alterations, reflecting the standards set out in the Local Plan. In view of the assessment at **Stage 2**, it is the Council's preliminary opinion, at **Stage 3**, that ***an Environmental Report would not be required.***
6. Under Regulation 9 (2), the preliminary SEA Screening Report was forwarded to the 'Consultation Bodies' – the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England for comment on content and conclusion. The responses received from Natural England and the Environment Agency confirmed the Council's conclusions at **Stage 3**. Historic England however were unable to respond, due to the lack of staff resources. In view of this, the Council's Historic Buildings Officer provided advice, agreeing with those conclusions. A copy of those responses are set out in Appendix 1 of this document.

Where can I find a copy of these Documents?

A copy of this determination and the Assessment containing the reasons for this determination can be found on the Council's website at: www.stockton.gov.uk/, or inspected at: Stockton on Tees Borough Council's Central Library and Contact Centre, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton on Tees TS18 1LD and the following Libraries and Contact Centres at the following times (correct at the time of writing):

Location	Normal Opening Times
Stockton Central Library	Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am to 8.00pm and Saturday 9.30am to 4.00pm
Billingham Library	Monday and Tuesday 8.30am to 7.00pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm and Saturday 9.30am to 4.00pm
Norton Library	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am to 5.00pm Wednesday and Friday 9.30am to 7:00pm and Saturday 9.30am to 1.00pm
Yarm Library	Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am to 7.00pm and Saturday 9.30 to 1.00pm
Ingleby Barwick Library	Monday to Friday 1.00pm to 8.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Sunday 11.00am to 4.00pm
Thornaby Central Library	Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am to 7.00pm and Saturday 9.30am to 4.00pm
Thornaby Library, Gilmour Street	Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.15pm and Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Roseworth Library	Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm, Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Fairfield Library	Monday to Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm (closed 1.00pm to 2.00pm each day)

Alternatively by email request sent to planningpolicy@stockton.gov.uk; by telephone: 01642 528556 or by post to Economic Strategy and Planning Policy, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD.

**Appendix 1
Responses of Consultation Bodies
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Environment Agency received 4th September via email

"I have reviewed the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report and agree with your assessment that an SEA is not required for the Supplementary Planning Documents referred to."

Natural England received 14th July 2019 via email

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 25 June 2019, which was received by Natural England on 25 June 2019.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Our remit includes protected sites and landscapes, biodiversity, geodiversity, soils, protected species, landscape character, green infrastructure and access to and enjoyment of nature.

Whilst we welcome this opportunity to give our views, the topic of the Supplementary Planning Document does not appear to relate to our interests to any significant extent. We therefore do not wish to comment.

Should the plan be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then, please consult Natural England again.

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulations Assessment

A SPD requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment only in exceptional circumstances as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance here. While SPDs are unlikely to give rise to likely significant effects on European Sites, they should be considered as a plan under the Habitats Regulations in the same way as any other plan or project. If your SPD requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitats Regulation Assessment, you are required to consult us at certain stages as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance."

Historic England received 12th July 2019

"Thank you for consulting Historic England on Stockton on Tees SEA Screening Opinion.

Unfortunately, due to current staff shortages, we do not have the capacity to provide detailed comments. However, advice can be found on Historic England's website in relation to the historic environment and local plans, available at <<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>

While the paragraph references contained within a number of the documents found on the website refer to the previous NPPF, the advice is still relevant and related to guidance contained within the revised NPPF."

Stockton Borough Council - Historic Buildings Officer received 25th July 2019

"Having taken account of the guidance from Historic England: "I am satisfied that [the Council] have reached the correct conclusions."