

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)

Consultation Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Local Design Guide

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: Local Design Guide is not likely to have significant environmental effects. Accordingly, it is considered that an environmental assessment of the SPD 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 SPD relates 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 SPD. The Council's opinion at Stage 2 is that the SPD is unlikely to cause significant environmental effects in its application to decision taking, particularly as the parent policies in the adopted Stockton on Tees Local Plan have been subject to rigorous assessment in this respect both in preparation and in their final form through formal Examination in Public.
4. The SPD will provide information on the interpretation and implementation of the Council's Local Plan policies. The SPD primarily relates to Local Plan policy SD8 Sustainable Design through which the Council seeks to ensure that new development is designed to the highest possible standard and considers the need to conserve and enhance all aspects of the environment as well as the amenity of the residents in the Borough. Other related policies include SD5 Natural, Built and Historic Environment, H4 Meeting House Needs, T11 Transport Infrastructure, Policy ENV4 Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk, Policy ENV5 Preserve, Protect and Enhance Ecological Networks, Biodiversity and Geodiversity and Policy ENV6 Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Green Wedges and Agricultural Land and Policy HE2 – Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets. The SPD does not

make ‘new’ policy or allocates or establishes policies for the development of sites or areas of the Borough. The SPD provides guidance of achieving good design and the approach to site master planning.

5. The SPD provides guidance of achieving good design and the approach to site master planning. 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 Historic England did not dispute the Council’s conclusions at Stage 3. A response was not received from the Environment Agency. A copy of responses is provided within 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/design-SPD-consultation, or inspected at the following Libraries and Contact Centres at the following times (correct at the time of writing):

Location	Normal Opening Times (at time of writing)
Billingham Library	Monday and Tuesday: 8:30am to 7pm Wednesday to Friday: 8:30am to 5pm Saturday: 9:30am to 4pm
Fairfield Library	Monday to Friday: 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
Ingleby Barwick Library	Monday to Friday: 9:30am to 7pm Saturday: 10am to 4pm Sunday: 10am to 2pm
Norton Library	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30am to 5pm Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am to 7pm Saturday: 9:30am - 1pm
Roseworth Library	Monday to Thursday: 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm Friday: 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Stockton Central Library	Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:30am to 6pm Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30am to 8pm Saturday: 9:30am to 4pm
Thornaby Central Library	Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:30am to 5pm Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30am to 7pm Saturday: 9:30am to 4pm
Thornaby Library, Gilmour Street	Monday to Thursday: 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.15pm Friday: 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
Yarm Library	Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:30am to 5pm Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30am to 7pm Saturday: 9:30am to 1pm

Alternatively, by email request sent to planningpolicy@stockton.gov.uk; by telephone: 01642 393939 or by post to Planning Policy, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD.

Appendix 1

Responses of Consultation Bodies to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Historic England (received 1st September 2022)

Historic England welcome the opportunity to comment on your emerging Design Guide.

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Historic England would like to draw your attention to the need to consider the historic environment at this stage of the plan making process. Heritage assets and their settings should be included within the assessment of sites which are submitted for consideration as part of the Local Plan process and other planning policy work and, should also consider the impact of sites on heritage assets in adjoining local authority areas.

Historic England has produced a number of good practice advice notes on the historic environment, in particular the Good Practice Advice Note on the Historic Environment and Local Plans (<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/>), which provides supporting information on good practice in plan-making, and the Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/>) may be useful in the production of your Plan.

We currently have no detailed comments on your report but may do at a later stage in the process. If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Natural England (received 26th July 2022)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 20 July 2022, which was received by Natural England on 20 July 2022.

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.

Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report and does not have any further comments at this stage.

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