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Overton Parish Council Clerk

Sent via email:
clerk@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

09 May 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Overton Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion

This letter sets out the borough council's screening opinion concerning the need for SEA and HRA in relation to the new Overton Neighbourhood Plan. This has been underpinned by a detailed report and consultation with Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England.

The screening process undertaken concludes that in order to meet the 'basic conditions'[1] for neighbourhood planning a Strategic Environmental Assessment is considered to be required to accompany the updated Overton Neighbourhood Plan, and it would need to be subject to an HRA. The reasons for the decision are set out below:

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Following analysis undertaken to assess the effects on the environment resulting from the Overton Neighbourhood Plan, an SEA is considered to be required due to the Plan containing new policies, in particular the new site allocation for approximately 340 homes and employment. Additionally, the Parish contains landscape, natural environment and heritage asset sensitivities.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

There are no European sites within a 10km radius of the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the Plan area is within the River Test catchment where new development could potentially have significant effects on European (or Ramsar) sites in the Solent.

[1] Requirement (f), that the making of the order or neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU Obligations. The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Further information on the above can be found within the final version of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (May 2024). The responses from the consultation bodies can be found in Appendix 5 of the document.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on Victoria.Corrigan@basingstoke.gov.uk or on 01256 845638.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Corrigan
Senior Planning Policy Officer

Enc. Final version of the Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report (May 2024)

CC: Anne Phillips, Overton Parish Council (Chair) & Richard Oram, Overton Parish Council