

Helen Smith
Strategic Planning Officer
Planning and Regeneration
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Our ref: SV/2010/103997/OR-
06/IS2-L01
Your ref: 150909/BLB19
Date: 24 September 2015

Re: SEA and HRA screening assessment for Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Ms Smith

I refer to your email of 4 September 2015 with attachments.

We note that the Neighbourhood Plan steering group have asked your Council to undertake a screening assessment to check if Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required as part of the plan making process.

We note the screening assessment as submitted which concludes that an SEA and a HRA are not necessary.

We would not comment on the HRA but recommend that you seek the views of Natural England. We offer the following comments on the SEA:

With regard to SEA, Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209 of the National Planning Practice Guidance offers advice on assessing whether a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect.

We note that your conclusions are based around this guidance in so far as you confirm;

- *There are no plans for the proposed Alvechurch Neighbourhood Plan to allocate sites for development;*
- *The Neighbourhood Plan itself is unlikely to have environmental effects; rather it is the specific developments that come forward as part of planning applications within the neighbourhood area that may result in environmental effects;*
- *The neighbourhood plan will seek to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects by providing guidance for applicants when making proposals for development within the neighbourhood plan area. This will help to reduce the*

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number of negative environmental effects occurring within the neighbourhood plan area.

As confirmed previously in our letter of 3 April 2013 (within your Appendix B) in response to your consultation on SEA and SA screening for this plan; and upon consideration of the current objectives and strategic options, we would reiterate that there would not be any significant effects, relevant to our remit, as a result of the plan.

Notwithstanding the above, we would reiterate the comments within our previous letter of 3 April 2013, to help inform the environmental context and inform environmental improvements through the objectives and policies of the plan.

We would also take this opportunity, whilst there are no formal site allocations proposed as part of this particular plan, to provide you with our 'Neighbourhood Plan proforma' (copy enclosed) which has been developed to assist parish council's with the production of evidence base to support plans.

I trust that the above clarifies our position and is of interest.

Yours sincerely

Mark Davies
Planning Specialist

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