

Appendix 1

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004: SCHEDULE 1

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment

| Criteria | Assessment |
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| 1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to: | |
| (a) degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources | The Local Plan makes allocations of land for development across the district and also provides the policy framework for determining planning applications |
| (b) degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy | The Local Plan provides a framework for Supplementary Planning Documents |
| (c) relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development | In setting out the site allocations, development guidelines will also be provided which will include environmental considerations. There are also specific environmental policies in the plan for controlling development |
| (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme | The scoping report has identified a number of environmental problems relevant to the plan |
| (e) relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection) | The Local Plan will include a policy to mark on the Proposals Map natural environmental designations, including those derived from community legislation |
| 2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to: | |
| (a) probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects | The Local Plan will make allocations of land for new development and provide a policy framework for controlling development |
| (b) cumulative nature of the effects | There are likely to be cumulative effects arising from and between the different policies in the Local Plan |
| (c) transboundary nature of the effects | Transboundary effects will be considered through the Duty to Cooperate requirement of the NPPF |
| (d) risks to human health or the environment | New development affords the opportunity to create risks to the environment without adequate controls and or mitigation measures being in place |
| (e) magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (<i>geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected</i>) | Spatial effect will be across the district. There is a requirement to plan for a significant increase in the number of homes per year across the district, together with the necessary employment land and a range of uses. There will be a range of effects associated with this especially environmental and transport issues |
| (f) value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special characteristics or cultural heritage; exceeded environmental quality standards or limits; intensive land use | The district is characterised by high quality and diverse landscape and wildlife which over the years has been threatened by development pressures. The district also contains many assets important to cultural heritage including a World Heritage site |
| (g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status | The district contains a number of areas which have a recognised national or community protection status. These include an AONB, SSSIs and Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation. Appropriate Assessment will also be undertaken in accordance with the European Habitats Directive |