

Strategic Environmental Assessment Joint Screening Statement

**Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Joint)
Shop Front Design Guide (Malvern Hills and
Wychavon)**

**Water Management and Flooding (Joint)
Residential Design Guide (Joint)
Planning for Health
(Joint)**

Supplementary Planning Documents

April 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This joint Screening Statement has been produced to consider whether a number of forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which are to be produced across the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC) are likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether Strategic Environmental Assessment is required to be carried out. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a requirement under the related European Directive 2001/42/EC which calls for an “assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”.
- 1.2. The SWC of Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District have a history of working collaboratively on planning matters, namely in the production of the SWDP. This relationship between the SWC continues through the production of a number of further joint documents including SPDs which provide guidance on the policies in the SWDP. Whilst the subject matter of each SPD is different, the Screening process for the SPDs has been combined into this single document to deliver efficiencies.
- 1.3. The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) was adopted in February 2016 and the Affordable Housing SPD and Developer Contributions SPD were adopted towards the end of 2016 to provide guidance on the implementation of the relevant policies in the SWDP.

2. The requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.1. Strategic Environment Assessment is a requirement of the [European Union Directive 2001/42/EC](#) (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This Directive sets out the specific types of plans and programmes to which it applies, with Article 3(2) specifying that SEA is mandatory for plans and programmes which are prepared for town and country planning or land use and those which set the framework for future development consent. The Directive was transposed into law in England by the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(the SEA Regulations\)](#). Detailed guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#) (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2. The SWC, each as a Responsible Authority under the Directive and the associated Regulations, must carry out a screening process to determine whether plans or programmes are likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive. Where a council determines that SEA is not required, Regulation 9(3) states that they must prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination. **This is a draft version of that Statement as it proposes that the councils have complied with Regulation 9(3), as it finds that SEA is not required for any of the five SPDs.**
- 2.3. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a separate requirement of the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)¹. SA considers the social, environmental and

¹ PCPA 2004 Section 19 (5) Local development documents

economic impacts of a plan. The Act and the associated [Regulations](#) set out the requirement to carry out Sustainability Appraisal on all Development Plan Documents. Development Plan Documents are planning policy documents which set policies for the use of land or allocate sites for development. Following the [2008 Planning Act](#), Sustainability Appraisal is no longer required to be carried out for Supplementary Planning Documents, as they purely provide further detail on policies in an adopted development plan. They must therefore be consistent with adopted Development Plan Documents which will themselves have been the subject of Sustainability Appraisal. Despite this amendment in planning legislation, there is still a requirement to assess the need for a full SEA under European law.

3. The Supplementary Planning Documents Programme

3.1. In order to support policies in the SWDP a further number of SPDs are proposed in the 2016 Local Development Scheme (LDS). These will be produced jointly, to present a shared approach to policy implementation across the planning authorities of Worcester City, Wychavon District and Malvern Hills District Councils. In order to make further resource efficiencies the current round of SPDs are planned to be produced to similar timetables to allow consultation periods to be held together.

3.2. One such efficiency is the production of this joint Screening Statement for the five named SPDs. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the role of each of the planned SPDs.

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint)

3.3 The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD will provide guidance on the application of planning policy SWDP27. Policy SWDP27 requires all new development to incorporate the generation of energy from renewable or low carbon sources equivalent to at least 10% of predicted energy requirements. It also requires large scale development proposals (residential development of 100+ dwellings or non-residential developments of more than 10,000 m²) to examine the potential for a decentralized energy and heating network. With the exception of wind turbines, SWDP27 also welcomes proposals for stand-alone renewable and other low carbon energy schemes providing they conform to national planning policy and other relevant policies in the SWDP. The SPD will include guidance on:

- How the 10% renewable and low carbon energy target should be calculated.
- What information applicants must provide to demonstrate that the renewable and low carbon energy target will be achieved.
- How opportunities for decentralised heat networks should be explored.
- The planning issues and requirements for different renewable and low energy technologies.

Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint)

3.4 The Water Management and Flooding SPD will replace Wychavon's existing SPD guidance document from 2009 to reflect the new policy framework both at national and local level and cover the SWC. It will provide the necessary guidance to all parties involved in the development process in terms of the

management of water and the techniques involved to ensure sustainable development. It will cover all aspects of water management including:

- Fluvial and pluvial flooding.
- Water supply.
- Water disposal (surface and rainwater).
- Water collection and recycling.
- Water usage.

Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint)

3.5 The Residential Design Guide SPD will provide a high-level design framework for new development that supports the diverse nature of good design. It will provide the necessary guidance to all those involved in the development process. It is intended that the Residential Design Guide will include sections on:

- Housing design and layout.
- Urban design.
- Open space.
- House extensions.
- Accessibility.
- Parking standards.
- Lighting.
- Sustainable construction.
- Replacement dwellings in the countryside.
- Re-use of rural buildings.

Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon)

3.6 This guide will provide design advice regarding the form, layout, character and quality of both existing and future development in connection with shop front and signage in the District. The guidance will explain the vision for the design of shop fronts, including the installation of signage, lighting and security measures to both traditional and contemporary shops located within rural and urban areas. As well as being applicable to retail units, the guidance will also apply to catering, financial and professional service businesses located within our historic shopping areas.

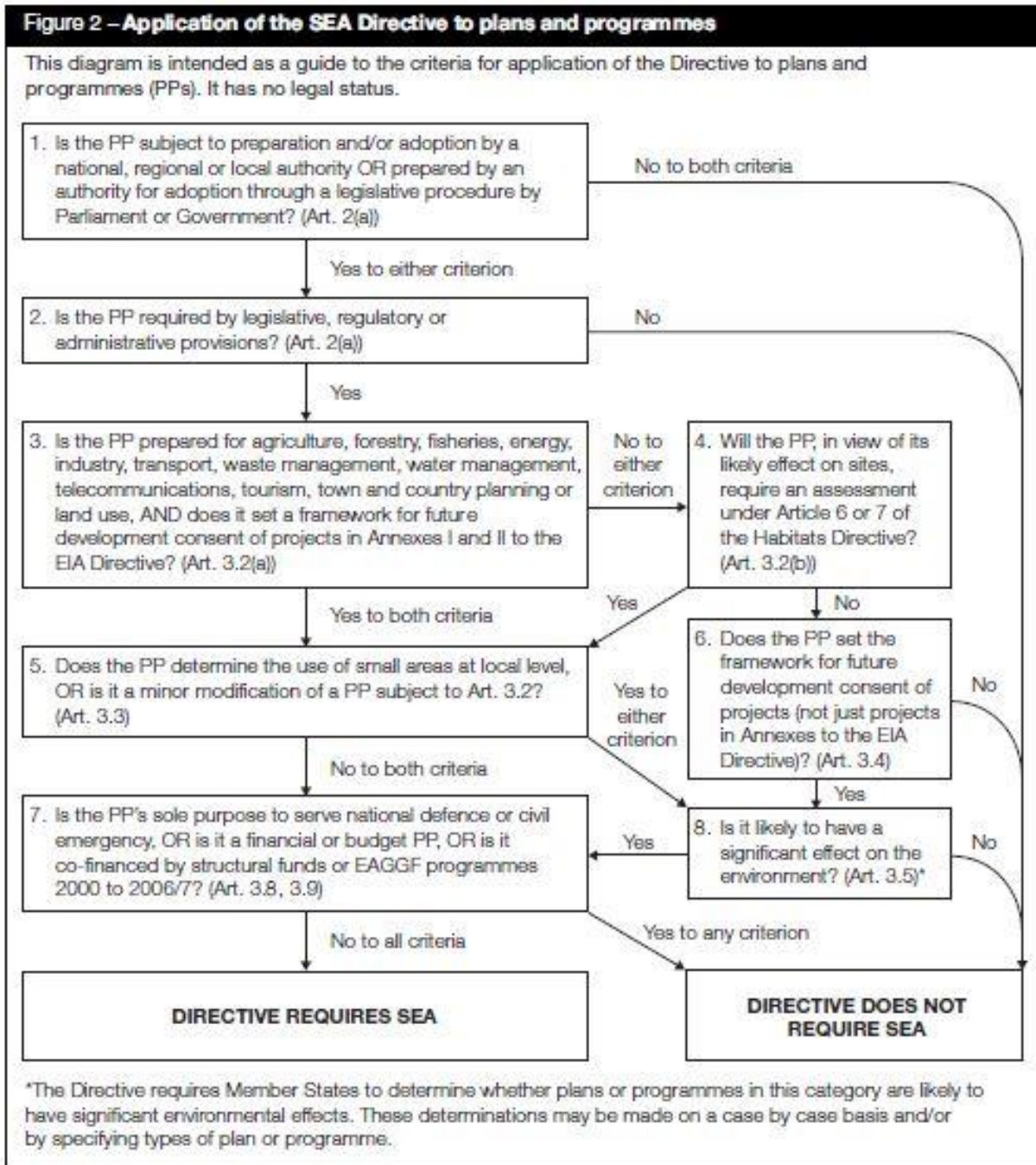
Planning for Health (Joint)

3.7 This SPD will help towards planning and building environments that foster health and wellbeing, which will improve the health of those who live in, work or visit south Worcestershire. It achieves this by outlining best practice in a range of areas, including:

- Planning for better built and natural environments and living conditions, to encourage good physical and mental health and wellbeing and to prevent people succumbing to illness.
- Ensuring access – meaning that facilities and a means of getting to those facilities are in situ for those that become ill; and
- Providing a health-promoting environment to support recuperation when people do fall ill.

4. Applying the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

4.1. The diagram below illustrates where the Directive applies and can be used to ascertain whether a full SEA is required for a plan or programme. It is taken from the 2005 ODPM document: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.



4.2. Table 1 below sets out the eight questions detailed in the diagram above and provides responses with regard to the five planned SPDs.

Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA

| Stage | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint) | | | Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon) | | | Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint) | | | Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint) | | | Planning for Health SPD (Joint) | | |
|--|---|--|---------------|--|--|-----------|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|---------------------------------|--|-----------|
| | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step |
| 1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a)) | Yes | Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the SWC. | Go to Q2 | Yes | Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils. | Go to Q2 | Yes | Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the SWC. | Go to Q2 | Yes | Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the SWC. | Go to Q2 | Yes | The SPD is identified in the LDS of the SWCs. Following public consultation the SPD will be adopted by the SWC. | Go to Q2 |
| 2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a)) | Yes | SWDP27 refers to the need for a Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD | Go to Q3 | Yes | SWDP 21 refers to the need for a Design Guide and the 2016 LDS identifies shopfront design as a topic within the SPD. However the two councils have decided on a more focused SPD to give more prominence to the issues and provide an opportunity to give more detailed guidance. | Go to Q3 | Yes | The SPD is required to update the current Wychavon Water Management SPD, and roll this out to the other SWC to reflect changes in national and local policy. | Go to Q3 | Yes | SWDP 21 refers to the need for a Design Guide SPD. | Go to Q3 | Yes | The Framework promotes healthy and inclusive communities and an objective of the SWDP is to improve health and wellbeing. | Go to Q3 |
| 3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a)) | Yes | The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. It will set a framework for all types of development which may include that falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive. | Go to Q5. | No | The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive. | Go to Q4 | Yes | The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. It will set a framework for all types of development which may include that falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive. | Go to Q5. | No | The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive. | Go to Q4 | No | The SPD will be for town and country planning purposes. However it will not set a framework for future development falling within Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive. | Go to Q4 |
| 4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b)) | Yes | The SPD concerns the installation of renewable and low | Go to Q5 or 6 | No | The SPD concerns best practice and guidance in shop front | Go to Q6. | - | - | - | No | The SPD concerns the design of development in south | Go to Q6. | No | The SPD seeks to better integrate health considerations into the planning | - |

| Stage | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint) | | | Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon) | | | Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint) | | | Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint) | | | Planning for Health SPD (Joint) | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|---|-----------|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step |
| | | carbon energy in new development and guidance for the location of stand alone renewable and low carbon energy schemes. In south Worcestershire, if required, Appropriate Assessment would be carried out at the planning application stage. HRA of the SPD will not be required. | | | design and will lead to enhancement of frontages and street scene across the two district council areas. HRA of the SPD will not be required. | | | | | | Worcestershire. . If required, Appropriate Assessment would be carried out at the planning application stage. HRA of the SPD will not be required. | | | process across south Worcestershire. If required AA would be carried out at any planning application stage. HRA of the SPD will not be required. | |
| 5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3) | Yes | The SPD will determine the use of small areas at a local level, by setting out guidance for new buildings to achieve benefits of renewable and low carbon energy generation and carbon emission reduction. It will also provide guidance for the location of stand alone renewable and low carbon energy schemes in south Worcestershire. | Go to Q8. | - | - | - | Yes | The SPD will determine the use of small areas at a local level, by promoting design considerations which take water within new development into account. | Go to Q8. | - | The SPD will determine the use of small areas at a local level, by promoting design considerations to improve the quality of new residential development. | Go to Q8. | No | The SPD will determine the use of small areas at a local level, by providing guidance to encourage developments which provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles. | Go to Q8. |
| 6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects | - | The SPD will set the | - | Yes | The SPD will set the | Go to Q8. | - | - | - | Yes | The SPD will set the framework for | Go to Q8. | yes | The SPD will set the framework for | |

| Stage | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint) | | | Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon) | | | Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint) | | | Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint) | | | Planning for Health SPD (Joint) | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|--|---|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step | Y/N | Reason | Next step |
| (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4) | | framework for determining a variety of types of planning applications. It will also provide a framework for the location of stand alone renewable and low carbon energy schemes. | | | framework for determining future planning applications for retail and shopfronts. | | | | | | determining a variety of types of planning applications. It will also inform site briefs and master planning work. | | | determining a variety of types of planning applications. | |
| 7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5) | No | The SPD will have a limited and largely positive effect on the environment by promoting energy from renewable and low carbon sources while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria. | No SEA required | No | As the SPD concerns the design of shopfronts, it will have a minimal effect on the environment. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria. | No SEA required | No | The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment by detailing ways to better deal with water in new development. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria. | No SEA required | No | The SPD will have a limited and largely positive impact on the environment by promoting the principles of good design. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria. | No SEA required | | The SPD will have a limited and largely positive impact on the environment by promoting good health through the principles of good design. See Table 2 for detailed reasoning against the SEA criteria. | No SEA required |

5. SEA Screening of Likely Significant Effects

5.1. Table 2 sets out the SWC assessment against the SEA criteria for the five forthcoming SPDs to determine whether they will have a significant effect on the environment. This provides the reasoning behind the conclusions drawn in Question 8 in Table 1 above. The criteria against which the screening is carried out are taken directly from Annex II of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (also known as the SEA Directive) as required by Article 3(5).

| Table 2 Significant Effects Screening | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint) | Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon) | Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint) | South Worcestershire Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint) | Planning for Health SPD (Joint) |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| a. The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. | The overarching framework is for renewable and low carbon energy and reducing carbon emissions as set out in Section 10 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is supplemented at the local level by policy SWDP27 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies. | The overarching framework is set by national guidance on achieving good design within the National Planning Policy Framework and more specifically through local design policies in the SWDP. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies. | The overarching framework is set by national policy within the National Planning Policy Framework and in the associated Technical Guidance on flood risk. This is supplemented at the local level by policies on Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage in the SWDP. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies. | The overarching framework for good design is set out by national policy in Section 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is supplemented at the local level by policy SWDP 21: Design. The SPD does not set a framework for other plans and strategies. | The overarching framework for health in planning is set out in Section 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is supplemented at the local level by SWDP Objective D Improving Health and Well-being. The SPD aims to positively influence proposals so that health considerations are taken into account, but the degree to which it could be considered to “set a framework” is minimal. It does not allocate resources, and it is limited to influencing proposals, rather than fundamentally setting out how and where projects should be developed”. |
| Is there a significant effect? | No | No | No | No | No |
| b. The degree to which the plans or programme influences other plan and programmes including those in a hierarchy. | The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimise energy consumption and deliver renewable and low carbon energy. | The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis to promote good design and determine planning applications in relation to shop fronts. | The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis when determining planning applications to ensure that schemes consider appropriate water management techniques. | The SPD will implement a higher level policy in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other plans. It will be used on a site-specific basis when determining planning applications to promote good design. | The SPD will implement a higher level objective in the SWDP. An SPD is the lowest tier of planning policy document so it does not influence other plans. It will be used to promote healthy communities through new development and inform the preparation of future plans, strategies, development briefs and policy decisions. |
| Is there a significant effect? | No | No | No | No | No |
| c. The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development. | The SPD will promote sustainable development in terms of minimising energy consumption, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to deliver renewable and low carbon energy. This will help reduce the negative impacts from development. | The SPD provides design advice regarding the form, layout, character and quality of both existing and future development in connection with shop front and signage in the two districts. | The SPD will look at how water can best be managed in new developments. It will therefore assist in both reducing flood risk and in the more efficient use of water as a scarce resource. | The SPD will include a section of sustainable construction, which will look at how development can minimise its impact on the environment and be sustainable in the long term. | The SPD will provide guidance on promoting health and wellbeing and enhancing social sustainable development. Emphasis on promoting environments that lead to more activity and social interaction as well as promoting active and sustainable travel. |
| Is there a significant effect? | No | No | No | No | No |
| d. Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme. | The SPD will seek to protect and enhance the environment by reducing carbon emissions, minimising energy consumption, and promoting renewable and low carbon energy whilst ensuring that any adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily. | There are no environmental problems relevant to the plan as it does not make provision for any additional development. The SPD will have a positive impact on the environment through the promotion of good design for shop frontages. | The SPD will have a positive impact on the environment by proposing better management techniques minimising flood risk, dealing with surface water and integrating sustainable drainage techniques into new development, whilst ensuring that water is reused or recycled wherever possible. | There are no significant environmental problems relevant to the plan. The SPD will have a positive impact on the environment by promoting good design techniques for new development. | There are no environmental problems relevant to the plan as it does not make provision for any additional development. The promotion of developments which encourage active travel will have a positive effect on the environment. |
| Is there a significant effect? | No | No | No | No | No |

| Table 2 Significant Effects Screening | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint) | Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon) | Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint) | South Worcestershire Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint) | Planning for Health SPD (Joint) |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| e. The 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). Is there a significant effect? | The SPD will contribute to the achievement of the EU Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2009/28/EC) which sets an overall target for 20% of the energy consumed in the EU to come from renewable sources by 2020. No | The SPD is not relevant to the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment. No | The SPD is not relevant to the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment. No | This is not relevant to the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment. No | The SPD is not relevant to the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment. No |
| a. the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects. Is there a significant effect? | Any effects of the SPD will not be irreversible. If measures are found to be unsuccessful or to have a negative impact, alternative solutions can be investigated. Stand alone renewable energy schemes can be decommissioned in the future through planning conditions. No | Any effects of the SPD will not be irreversible. Further alterations to shop front design can be made in the future if measures prove to be unsuccessful or do not have the desired effect. No | Any effects of the SPD will not be irreversible. The guidance in the SPD will promote positive steps to better manage water issues in new developments. If measures are found to be unsuccessful or to have a negative impact, alternative solutions can be investigated. No | Any effects of the SPD will not be irreversible. Further alterations to design can be made in the future if measures prove to be unsuccessful or do not have the desired effect. No | Any effects of the SPD will not be irreversible. No |
| b. the cumulative nature of the effects. Is there a significant effect? | Whilst the SPD will work alongside the South Worcestershire Residential Design Guide SPD and the Water Management and Flooding SPD in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating against the effects of climate change, the cumulative effects will be positive and of a limited scale. No | Whilst the SPD will work alongside the South Worcestershire Residential design SPD, the cumulative effects will be positive and of a limited scale. No | The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment and no significant cumulative effects. No | The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment and no significant cumulative effects. No | The SPD will have a positive effect on the environment and no significant cumulative effects. No |
| c. the trans-boundary nature of the effects. Is there a significant effect? | The SPD will not have any trans boundary effects. No | The SPD will not have any trans boundary effects. No | The SPD will not have any trans boundary effects. No | The SPD will not have any trans boundary effects. No | The SPD will not have any trans boundary effects. No |
| d. the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents). Is there a significant effect? | None. No | None. No | None. No | None. No | None. No |
| e. the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected). Is there a significant effect? | This SPD will cover the whole of the south Worcestershire area which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. Effects will not be felt beyond the south Worcestershire area. No | This SPD will cover the districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon which has a population of approximately 192,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. Effects will not be felt beyond the south Worcestershire area. No | This SPD will be limited to south Worcestershire which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications in the district, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. As water catchment areas and flood plains are not limited to administrative boundaries, changes within the water cycle at a location within Wychavon may have an effect outside of south Worcestershire. No | This SPD will cover the whole of the south Worcestershire area which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. Effects will not be felt beyond the south Worcestershire area. No | This SPD will cover the whole of the south Worcestershire area which has a population of approximately 290,000. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within this area, but does not set a framework for the scale or type of development. No |
| f. the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected | There are unlikely to be any significant effects on special | There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, | There are no significant effects on cultural heritage, | There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, | There are no significant effects on special nature conservation, |

| Table 2 Significant Effects Screening | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD (Joint) | Shop Front Design Guide SPD (Malvern Hills and Wychavon) | Water Management and Flooding SPD (Joint) | South Worcestershire Residential Design Guide SPD (Joint) | Planning for Health SPD (Joint) |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| due to: i. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii. exceeded environmental quality standards; or limit values; iii. intensive land-use. | nature conservation, cultural heritage, and environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use because the SPD will include criteria relating to the appropriate location of renewable and low carbon energy schemes which will seek to protect sensitive areas. | cultural heritage, and environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development. Within conservation areas and listed buildings the guide will provide additional information and advice to enable a sympathetic and consistent approach. | environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. There are unlikely to be any significant effects from the SPD on either the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Lyppard Grange Local Nature Reserve SAC as development in and close to the SAC is carefully managed. | cultural heritage, and environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development. | cultural heritage, and environmental quality standards or on the intensity of land-use. This is because the SPD itself will not generate additional development. |
| Is there a significant effect? | No | No | No | No | No |
| g. the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status. | There are unlikely to be any significant effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status because the SPD will include criteria relating to the appropriate location of renewable and low carbon energy schemes which will seek to protect areas with protected status. | None. | There are unlikely to be any significant effects from the SPD on the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Lyppard Grange Local Nature Reserve SAC as development in and close to the SAC are very carefully managed. | None. | None. |
| Is there a significant effect? | No | No | No | No | No |

Conclusions

6. The assessment against the SEA criteria to determine the likely significant effects of introducing the five SPDs has been carried out. It finds that it is unlikely that significant effects on the environment will arise as a result of the SPDs. Whilst some, mainly positive effects of introducing the SPDs are noted, it is not felt that any of the effects are significant. Thus it is the SWC recommendation at this stage that SEA is not required for any of the five SPDs which will be produced across south Worcestershire.
7. In order to confirmed that SEA is not needed for any of the five SPDs it is necessary to consult the three statutory environmental bodies (known as Consultation Bodies for SEA) about this determination.

Consultation

The draft SEA joint Screening Statement for the five SPDs was sent to the statutory consultees, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, for comment in March 2017. Responses were received from all three statutory consultees with the conclusion that the SPDs would be unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. Comments were also provided by Worcestershire County Council, which drew a similar conclusion, but proposed a number of helpful amendments relating to the Planning for Health SPD that have been incorporated into this final report.

8. If you have any queries about this document or the proposed SPD please call Andrew Ford on 01386-565362.

Next steps

9. The SPDs are all programmed for adoption in 2017, with consultation on the draft SPDs taking place during summer of 2017. Details of future planning policy documents to be produced and anticipated consultation dates can be found in the 2016 Local Development Schemes which are available via the planning policy pages on the councils' respective websites and also on the SWDP website at www.swdevelopmentplan.org