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Chief Executive



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

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Email: planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Your ref: Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan
Our ref: 1100/Neighbourhood Planning/NDP/Stoke Golding
Date: 15th April 2020

Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Planning Group
Stoke Golding Parish Council

Via Email Only

Dear Sir/Madam

**The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Regulation 9
Screening Determination: Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan**

European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the regulations) require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in schedule 1 of the regulations).

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as the determining authority must consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan is required. The Borough Council has had regard to the Screening Report produced by the Neighbourhood Planning Group and has completed a consultation with the statutory consultation bodies which includes Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.

The Borough Council have received responses from two of the three consultation bodies which are attached with this letter. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, has determined that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. In particular, it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment in respect cultural heritage. The allocation of up to 50 dwellings is located within Bosworth Battlefield, near to Crown Hill, where Henry VII was crowned after defeating Richard III.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council as the determining body have had regard to the recommendations and have concluded that the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan should complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the potential for significant effects on cultural heritage (the historic environment). As set out in [paragraph 8\(2\) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) in order for the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to a referendum it is required to meet a set of Basic Conditions. Specifically, this is Basic Condition 'f. *the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations*', specifically the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive).

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Further information on producing Strategic Environmental Assessments can be found in National Planning Policy Guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>). Locality has also produced a process flow for the SEA process and initial steps for undertaking the scoping exercise. The link is: <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/16-LOCALITY-Screening-neighbourhood-plans-SEA-HMJS-07.06.18.pdf>

In regards to **Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan** it **has been determined that one is not required** due to there being no adverse comments from the statutory consultation bodies and for the reasons set out in the Stoke Golding Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement.

This decision has been based on the information provided. If the contents of the Plan are revised and/or there is a material change in the environmental characteristics in the locality (for example, any additional nature conservation or other environmental designations), then the comments contained in this decision would need to be reconsidered in order to take account of the changes.

Yours sincerely



Senior Planning Officer (Policy)

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