



Rothley Neighbourhood Plan - Published 10th March 2021

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) SCREENING DETERMINATION UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004

Charnwood Borough Council undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening (March 2020) to determine the requirement for SEA for the Submission Rothley Neighbourhood Plan.

The relevant statutory bodies (The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) were consulted on the SEA Screening Report as part of the Regulation 16 consultation and no specific comments were made. Following this consultation, the Submission Rothley Neighbourhood Plan was examined by an independent examiner who concluded at page 23 of his report that the SEA was proportionate and appropriate. The examiner recommended several changes to the Plan none of which allocate additional land for development or proposed a significant change in policy approach, but included the removal of all site allocations from the plan, therefore promoting less development than was assessed in the SEA Screening).

Following consultation with the relevant statutory bodies and considering the examiner's recommendations, Charnwood Borough Council has determined that a SEA of the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan is not required as it is not likely to have significant environmental effects. As such, it is the opinion of Charnwood Borough Council that the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the provisions of European Directive 2001/42/EC as incorporated into United Kingdom law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The reasons for this decision are:

Statement of Reasons

- The Neighbourhood Plan has been written to be in general conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2028 and emerging draft local plan. The environmental credentials of the Core Strategy have been assessed through reports such as Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Neighbourhood Plan does not alter the development strategy set out in the Core Strategy or emerging draft local plan.
- The policies in the Plan are considered to have a generally neutral/ positive environmental impact at a local level, particularly through the inclusion of local design considerations or protective designations.
- The analysis undertaken in the Rothley Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report (March 2020) supports the conclusion that a SEA is not required and this has been confirmed through consultation with the statutory consultees.
- The examiner's recommendations did not significantly alter the policies of the plan or allocate additional land for development.

A copy of the SEA Screening Report is available for inspection:

- Online https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/rothley_neighbourhood_plan
- At the Council Offices, Southfield Road, Loughborough (email localplans@charnwood.gov.uk to arrange this)