

Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Please ask for: David Marlow  
Direct dial no: 01424 787635  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**BY EMAIL ONLY**  
Mrs Carol Hodgson  
Clerk – Sedlescombe Parish Council  
[clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sedlescombe.org.uk)

**Dr Anthony Leonard**  
**Executive Director of Business Operations**

Town Hall  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex TN39 3JX

Dear Carol,

### **Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) SEA Screening Opinion**

Further to Jonathan's email of 29<sup>th</sup> February, I have now reviewed the earlier advice on screening for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) provided on 28th November 2013 in response to the letter from the then Clerk dated 13th November 2013.

The one process point that has since been clarified is that of the responsibility for undertaking the screening. It is now clear that it is the role of the LPA. Hence, this letter should be taken as the Council's formal Screening Opinion.

On the basis that the Neighbourhood Plan is to carry forward the relevant provisions of the adopted Core Strategy, also having regard to the NPPF, and given that these contexts have not materially changed, the 'Opinion' remains essentially as originally given, namely that a SEA is needed, and for the same reasons as set out in the earlier letter - which I attach for ease of reference.

By way of assistance, Rother District Council has published a 'Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report' that is considered applicable to the SEA process of Neighbourhood Plans produced within the District. It can be found on our web-site here <http://www.rother.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5006> . Particular reference should be made to the 'Sustainability Appraisal Framework' (Task A4) which contains decision-aiding questions to help inform the SEA process.

It is considered that the following objectives from the Sustainability Appraisal Framework should be screened in for SEA purposes:

- 7: Improve accessibility to services and facilities for all ages across the District
- 9: Improve efficiency in land use and encourage the prudent use of natural resources
- 10: Reduce road congestion and pollution levels and ensure air quality continues to improve by increasing travel choice and reducing car usage
- 11: Reduce emissions of Greenhouse gases
- 12: Minimise the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to people and property
- 13: Maintain, improve and manage water resources in a sustainable way
- 14: Conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
- 15: Protect and enhance the high quality natural and built environment



While these objectives are most relevant to this particular Neighbourhood Plan in terms of potential significant environmental effects (and hence screened in), you may wish to also consider the other SA/SEA objectives in the Framework for the purposes of assessing the overall sustainability of proposed policies.

If there are any queries, I would be happy to advise further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Marlow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**David Marlow**  
**Planning Policy Manager**

