



Basingstoke
and Deane

Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2029

**Strategic Environmental Assessment:
Adoption Statement**

October 2018

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1. This Statement

- 1.1 Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) involves a series of procedural steps which are designed to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations¹. The final step in the process involves preparing a 'statement' at the time a Neighbourhood Plan is 'made'. This SEA Adoption Statement addresses the requirement to prepare a post-adoption 'statement' under Part 4 of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.2 The SEA Environmental Report Adoption Statement includes information on:
- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan
 - how the SEA has been taken into account
 - how the results of public consultation have been taken into account
 - the reasons for choosing the made Neighbourhood Plan, and
 - how any significant environmental effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan (KNP) sets out the planning policy framework for Kingsclere Parish over the period 2011- 2029. The KNP was prepared to be in general conformity with the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029), and it sets out a vision, objectives and a range of policies for the Parish/Kingsclere neighbourhood area which follows the Parish boundaries. Policies relate to a range of topics, including housing, sustainability, environment and design.

2.2 The objectives for the KNP are as follows:

- a) The provision of housing, with particular regard to low cost housing within the parish boundary;*
- b) The identification of potential sites for development in accordance with the Borough's Local Development Plan, taking account of the historical integrity of the village;*
- c) The implications for local road use and parking, in the light of any new developments;*
- d) The protection of existing facilities, continued provision and addition of a variety of sport and leisure facilities, particularly for children and young people, where need has been identified;*
- e) All activity will take cognisance of existing relevant work on, for example, the protection of the natural environment; reduction of all forms of pollution; maintenance of footpaths; improving water flow and recycling provision.*

2.3 Following extensive work and community involvement on the KNP by the Neighbourhood Planning Group, Kingsclere Parish Council (KPC) submitted

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

the KNP (2011-2029) and supporting documents to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) in January 2018.

- 2.4 BDBC subsequently published the KNP for formal public consultation for six weeks from 29 January 2018 (Regulation 16) and all representations received were forwarded to an independent examiner who was appointed by the Council, with the agreement of KPC, to examine the Plan.
- 2.5 In May 2018, the Examiner provided her Report to BDBC and KPC which concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the KNP meets the basic conditions and other statutory requirements. The Examiner also recommended that, subject to the modifications proposed, the KNP should proceed to a referendum.
- 2.6 Following a positive outcome at the referendum, the KNP was 'made' on 18 October 2018.
- 2.7 The stages of the Neighbourhood Plan and SEA processes are discussed below.

3. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 The SEA process has been undertaken in parallel with the development of the KNP. KPC commissioned consultants (AECOM) to undertake the preparation of the SEA, and this was integral to and has informed the plan making process at each stage.
- 3.2 SEA is used to assess neighbourhood plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the appraisal is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the neighbourhood planning area, and the quality of life of residents through the neighbourhood planning process.
- 3.3 SEA is not an automatic requirement for neighbourhood plans. Rather, SEA is a requirement where an initial 'screening' assessment identifies the potential for the Plan to result in significant environmental effects.

4. How the SEA has been taken into account

Consultation on the Scope for the SA (inc. SEA)

- 4.1 In April 2015, BDBC determined that the KNP required an SEA. This was informed by the views of the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).
- 4.2 An SEA Scoping Report for the KNP (which presented the proposed scope of the SEA), was provided to the three statutory bodies for comment.

Comments were received from all 3 of the consultation bodies. The SEA report reflects these comments.

Regulation 14 Consultation

- 4.3 During the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Planning Group undertook a series of consultation events following the area designation in July 2013.
- 4.4 This culminated in the first Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation which was held from 9 January 2017 until 20 February 2017, which was accompanied by the SEA (as required by the SEA Regulations). The SEA assessed the likely significant effects associated with the policies which made up the Plan with consideration of reasonable alternatives.

Submission version of the Kingsclere NP

- 4.4 Following Regulation 14 consultation on the KNP, the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan were revised to take into account the responses received.
- 4.5 An SEA of the revised version of the KNP was then undertaken and a submission version of the SEA Report (December 2017) was prepared to accompany the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of this Report was to:
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the current KNP and alternatives; and
 - Provide an opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process.
- 4.6 The Report contains:
- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the KNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
 - Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
 - The SEA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions against which the KNP has been assessed;
 - The appraisal of alternative approaches for the KNP;
 - The likely significant effects of the KNP in environmental terms;
 - The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the KNP; and
 - The next steps for the KNP and accompanying SEA process.

Independent Examination and Referendum

- 4.7 Following the submission of the KNP to BDBC, the Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SEA Environmental Report underwent Regulation 16 consultation from 29 January 2018 to 13 March 2018.
- 4.8 Independent examination was subsequently undertaken, and the examiner's report was received in May 2018. Subject to a number of modifications being made, the independent examiner recommended that the KNP would meet the Basic Conditions and did not breach and was otherwise compatible with EU obligations and with Convention Rights.
- 4.9 The recommended modifications to the KNP were evaluated in relation to the findings of the SEA Environmental Report accompanying the submission version of the KNP. It was considered that the proposed modifications would not affect the overall SEA findings presented in the SEA Environmental Report and would not have significant environmental effects.
- 4.10 The updated KNP was subject to a local referendum on 6 September 2018, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. To the question 'Do you want Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Kingsclere to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' 85% of votes cast said yes.
- 4.11 Reflecting the favourable outcome of the referendum, the Kingsclere NP was subsequently 'made' on 18 October 2018.

5. How the results of public consultation have been taken into account

- 5.1 Each version of the SEA has been subject to public consultation. Comments from the statutory bodies at all stages of the process were taken into account.

6. The reasons for choosing the made Neighbourhood Plan

- 6.1 The SEA has considered reasonable alternatives and a clear audit trail has been provided of the preferred options taken forward within the KNP. The SEA highlights that the Plan is likely to lead to significant positive environmental effects, primarily in relation to improving the quality of life for the residents of Kingsclere. There would also be some other positive environmental effects (in relation to climate change, land, soil and water resources, and transport), though due to the scale of the likely positive effects, it is considered that these would not be at a level which could be regarded as significant in the context of the SEA process.
- 6.2 A number of alternative approaches were considered in the SEA in relation to the scale and form of new housing development to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan with reference to Policy SS5 (Neighbourhood Planning) of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029).

6.3 The development management policies in the Plan have also been incorporated into the SEA report. The SEA explains how the policies help to facilitate environmental enhancements.

7. How any significant environmental effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored

7.1 The KNP will be subject to an on-going programme of monitoring as part of the councils' Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR). This will demonstrate the on-going suitability of the Plan's policies and enable any unforeseen effects arising from their implementation to be identified. Monitoring will also provide information as to whether the predicted effects of the SEA were accurate.

7.2 Monitoring plays an important role in assessing the actual effects of any plans, including the KNP. This can feed into more accurate future predictions of effects, and can also help identify where changes need to be made to promote more sustainable development within the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Planning Area.

7.3 The SEA process has continually assessed and identified any predicted significant effects from the Plan with mitigation and/or enhancement measures being integrated at appropriate stages in the evolution of the Plan. This has ensured that BDBC and KPC are able to appropriately address these effects and monitor the potential for unforeseen adverse impacts.

8. Further information

8.1 The KNP and SEA Adoption Statement can be viewed on the council's website at <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/KNP>.

8.2 Additionally, hard copies of the documents are available to view at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Offices between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30am and 4.30pm on Fridays. They can also be viewed at Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Kingsclere Community Library during their normal opening times.