



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT (AS REQUIRED AT REGULATION 15)



1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document is the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement prepared under Regulation 9 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 on the determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This SEA Screening Statement concludes that the Broseley NDP is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect. Therefore the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan is screened out of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and no further assessment under the SEA Regulations are deemed to be necessary.

1.2 The government has determined that sustainability appraisals are only required for Local Plans and do not apply to neighbourhood plans. However neighbourhood plans must not breach and must be compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations (as adopted by the UK government). Neighbourhood plans therefore need to be considered against the Habitats and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives and associated regulations. Whilst not every neighbourhood plan will need a Strategic Environmental Assessment it is necessary for the qualifying body, Broseley Town Council, to prepare a Screening Statement to determine whether the scope and matters addressed in the NDP are likely to have significant environmental effects that would require a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are required by EU Directive 2001/42/EC to assess the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This Directive was implemented in the UK in July 2004 with the adoption of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). The requirement for SEA is assessed under Regulation 9(1). The SEA focuses on impacts on the natural environment with some limited consideration of human needs and material assets. The SEA itself should amongst other things consider options, quantify impacts and offer advice on alternatives or mitigating measures where impacts are likely.

1.4 The Regulations go further than the EU Directive to explicitly prevent the adoption or submission of a plan for which an Environmental Assessment is required before the SEA is completed. This Regulation also prohibits the adoption or submission of a plan before the responsible authority has determined whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

1.5 Whilst it is clear that the Shropshire Development Plan will have varying degrees of environmental impact and both the Shropshire Core Strategy 2011 and the Shropshire SAMDev Plan 2015 and the emerging Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016-2038 have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal that have

incorporated the requirements of the SEA Directive it is not possible to categorically rule out the need for SEA without first carrying out a Screening Assessment.

1.6 A Screening Assessment will establish whether or not the Broseley NDP is likely to have significant environmental effects. Under Article 3(4) of the Directive and Regulation 5 of the Regulations the responsible authority must determine which plans, other than those for which an SEA is automatically required, are likely to have significant environmental effects. The responsible authority (as defined by Regulation 2) is the authority on whose behalf the plan is prepared, that is Broseley Town Council.

1.7 Both the Directive (in Annex 11) and the Regulations (in Schedule 1) set out specific criteria for determining the likely significance of the environmental effects of the plan. The process for determining whether or not an Assessment is required is called Screening. These criteria include specific considerations regarding the characteristics of the plan, the impact of the plan and the area likely to be affected by the plan.

1.8 Within 28 days of making its determination the Town Council must publish a Statement such as this one setting out its decision. If it determines that a SEA is not required the Statement must set out the reasons for this. The three statutory consultation bodies, that is the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England must also be consulted.

2.0 Neighbourhood Planning

2.1 Neighbourhood Planning is a community right introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and guidance on its implementation is included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2.2 Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Development Plan and as such are subject to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

3.0 Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan

3.1 The Broseley Neighbourhood Area was designated by Shropshire Council on 17th September 2018 and Broseley Town Council was recognized as the qualifying body to produce the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2 The Broseley NDP is based on ten locally important policy objectives. The objectives focus on:

- a) Housing
- b) Employment and jobs
- c) Green spaces and green infrastructure
- d) Traffic and accessibility

- e) Conservation and heritage
- f) Community resources
- g) Sport and recreation
- h) Supporting the visitor economy
- i) Sustainable development and climate change

3.3 These policy objectives form the basis of the detailed policies that comprise the Neighbourhood Development Plan and will be the subject of public consultation, Independent Examination and a Public Referendum prior to the Plan being “made” (adopted) by Shropshire Council.

4.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment

4.1 The Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) set out the process by which the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans must be undertaken. Government and the relevant environmental agencies have provided further guidance on the process.

4.2 Both the Shropshire Core Strategy 2011 and the Shropshire SAMDev Plan 2015 and the emerging Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016-2038 have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal that has incorporated the requirements of the SEA Directive. The Broseley NDP is in general conformity with the Strategic policies of these plans. Broseley Town Council is satisfied that the policies contained in the NDP are in conformity with the Development Plan and are covered by the Sustainability Appraisal and the Environmental Assessments of the Shropshire Development Plans therefore it is considered that an Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required.

4.3 This SEA Screening Statement seeks to assess whether any policy in the NDP would result in a likely significant effect on the environment. This assessment follows advice from Shropshire Council and uses the latest Shropshire Development Plan documents and evidence gathered during the preparation of the Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016-2038. The statutory consultees will be given an opportunity to comment on this SEA Screening Statement and Shropshire Council will have regard to the representations submitted by the statutory consultees prior to “making” (adopting) the Neighbourhood Plan as required under Regulation 16(3).

4.4 In principle neighbourhood plans should not be subject to the SEA Directive or require sustainability appraisal because they do not normally introduce new policies or proposals or modify planning documents that have already been subject to sustainability appraisal. However they might occasionally be found likely to give rise to significant effects that might not been previously assessed as a result of changes following regulation 15 consultation and Independent Examination. If any significant changes are proposed to the policies in the NDP then an update to this Screening Statement will be produced reflecting the changes made and further consultation will be undertaken.

4.5 When screening a plan Article 3(6) of the SEA Directive requires that the relevant bodies concerned with environmental matters shall be consulted. In the UK the statutory environmental consultees are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

5.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

5.1 Each policy within the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been screened to determine whether it has the potential to cause a “likely significant effect” on the environment.

5.2 Any policy with no “likely significant effect” will be screened out of the SEA process. Any policy where there is potential for a “likely significant effect” is identified and will be subject to further more detailed assessment.

5.3 The table below identifies the screening methodology.

Screening Stage	Purpose
Assessing the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan against the Annex 11 Criteria (SEA Directive).	To establish whether or not the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the Annex11 Criteria. This will take account of the role of the NDP in relation to the existing policy context.
Conclusion on whether the Screening process identifies a need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).	To set out conclusions from the Screening process.
Recommendations for how the NDP should proceed in relation to SEA requirements.	To set out the broad approach needed to carry out a SEA for the NDP or, where the Screening process suggests no SEA is required, to determine the parameters within which the NDP will need to operate to avoid triggering a need for a SEA.

6.0 Assessing the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan against Annex 11 Criteria (SEA Directive)

6.1 Annex 11 of the Strategic Environmental; Assessment Directive sets out the criteria for determining if there are likely to be significant environmental effects resulting from the implementation of the NDP.

6.2 The following tables set out the Annex 11 Criteria and summarize the likely effects of the policies in the NDP.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex11 SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
<p>1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects either with regard to the location, nature, size or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The NDP proposes ten development policies: DS1-10 Design principles HO1-6 Housing HO7 Housing within the Conservation Area EJ1-6 Economy and jobs GR1-7 Green spaces and infrastructure, sport and recreation CH1-2 Conservation, heritage, landscape and the environment CR1-2 Community resources VE1-4 Supporting the visitor economy, tourism and leisure SD1-4 Achieving sustainable development and responding to the challenge of climate change WA1 – Water infrastructure.</p> <p>The NDP is in conformity with the NPPF and the Shropshire Development Plans that have undergone a Sustainability Appraisal.</p>

<p>1b) The degree to which the Plan or Programme influences other Plans or Programmes, including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Broseley NDP has regard to the NPPF and the Shropshire Core Strategy 2011, the Shropshire SAMDev Plan 2015 and the emerging Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016-2038. As the NDP is a lower tier planning policy document it is likely to have a</p>
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		<p>positive impact on these plans through its policies to deliver sustainable development and to enhance the local environment. The NDP will help to deliver the policies in the Shropshire Development Plans. The focus of the NDP is on issues identified in the Shropshire Development Plans and arising from public consultation. The NDP gives limited attention to other plans in the West Midlands because this would not be particularly helpful to the delivery of the NDP.</p>
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<p>1c) The relevance of the Plan or Programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	No	<p>The Broseley NDP has regard to the objective of achieving sustainable development in the Neighbourhood Area. The NDP includes policies that seek to protect and retain local valuable green spaces, provide new homes to meet local needs and help to promote and support community resources, local services and facilities. The NDP aims to support and promote sustainable transport and the reuse of existing buildings and previously used land. The policies within the NDP support the provision of a balanced range of good quality housing (size, type and affordability) as highlighted by residents through consultation. The policies of the NDP have been prepared to have a positive effect on local environmental assets.</p>
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<p>1d) Environmental problems relevant to the Plan</p>	No	<p>There are no major allocations in the NDP that have not been assessed in the Shropshire Development Plans. The NDP supports and promotes improvements to pedestrian and</p>
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		<p>cycle route through and between new developments and between open spaces and leisure facilities. Environmental problems could be triggered through new housing or employment development, however the impact on traffic and highway safety, drainage, ecology, biodiversity and the environment is unclear at this stage. If a planning application is submitted to the Local Planning Authority it would have to go through an assessment process prior to determination in which conditions or mitigation measures could be put in place to remove or reduce any environmental problems before the proposed development would be considered acceptable.</p>
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<p>1e) The relevance of the Plan or Programme to the implementation of community legislation in respect of the environment. (e.g. Plans or Programmes linked to waste management, water protection or related matters).</p>	No	<p>The Broseley NDP policies do not propose any changes that are likely to have a harmful impact on the environment (i.e. affecting Tree Preservation Orders or Public Rights of Way). The Shropshire Development Plan policies in respect of the natural environment are positive enabling policies. The NDP has adopted a similar approach and as a result the NDP policies are likely to have a positive and beneficial impact.</p>
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<p>2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.</p>	No	<p>Due to the limited scale of new development it is unlikely that the Broseley NDP would result in any irreversible and damaging environmental impacts. Any new developments should be in accordance with national and local planning policies.</p>
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<p>2b) The cumulative nature of the effects.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>It is not possible to fully assess the cumulative effects of future development until planning applications have been submitted and assessed against the relevant planning policies. However it is anticipated that the likely issues would be the impact on school places, transportation and highway safety. These matters are the responsibility of Shropshire Council. It may be possible to address some or all of these cumulative issues through mitigation, financial contributions and conditions imposed during the detailed stages of determining the planning applications. As far as possible the policies in the NDP will generate positive and beneficial effects.</p>
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<p>2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The housing and employment policies in the Broseley NDP are unlikely to generate any significant cross-boundary effects. By protecting local green spaces the NDP may help to reduce pressure on open spaces and green spaces elsewhere. Support for sustainable modes of transport and linkages including walking and cycling should help to minimize any trans-boundary effects. Any effects are likely to be mainly local. There may be some effects on surrounding areas but at this stage it is not clear what these effects might be.</p>
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<p>2d) The risk to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>It is unlikely that there will be any obvious risks to human health arising from the policies of the Broseley NDP. Health and safety standards in respect of developments within the Neighbourhood Area will be controlled and governed by the relevant statutory bodies, regulations, guidelines and codes. Any risks arising from the policies and proposals in the NDP will be managed in accordance with the statutory frameworks. However no details have been submitted or are shown in the NDP.</p>
<p>2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The policies contained in the Broseley NDP seek to protect and enhance open spaces, amenities and services whilst supporting a mix of new homes and small scale employment to meet local needs. The NDP will have an impact on the local population and it has been prepared to address local issues and matters of concern raised by local people through consultation.</p>

<p>2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be effected due to: 1) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. 2) Exceeded environmental quality standards. 3) Intensive land use.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Broseley NDP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the Neighbourhood Area in respect of its natural or cultural heritage. The NDP is more likely to provide greater support to enhance the setting of heritage assets and of local green spaces. Where possible the NDP policies will encourage new opportunities for recreation, access and leisure. The NDP will seek to protect all known sites and areas of ecological and environmental importance. The NDP policies will seek to</p>
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		increase green spaces and protect the surrounding countryside, landscape, wildlife and the valued natural features of Broseley. The NDP policies are in conformity with the NPPF and the Shropshire Core Strategy 2011, the Shropshire SAMDev Plan 2015 and the emerging Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016-2038.
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2g) The effects on areas or landscapes that have a recognised national, community or international protected status.	No	<p>It is considered unlikely that the Broseley NDP will have an adverse impact on existing landscapes within the Neighbourhood Area. The NDP does not propose any new development on the best and most versatile agricultural land. The NDP seeks to protect and enhance the landscape.</p> <p>A Screening Report in respect of the Habitat Regulations (HRA) has been prepared. The screening report concluded that potential effects on the wider environment would be mitigated by a suitably worded policy regarding provision of water infrastructure to serve the housing and employment allocations proposed in the Plan. This policy (WA1) has been included in the section 15 draft.</p>
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7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The conclusion of this Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Statement is that the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects and is therefore screened out of the SEA process and that no further assessment under the SEA Regulations is recommended. The three statutory consultees that is: Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England, will be given an opportunity to comment on this Screening Statement and Shropshire Council as the Local

Planning Authority will have regard to their comments prior to “making” (adopting) the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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