

Independent Examination of the Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2040 - Examiner Procedural Matters and Questions

TDC Response to Question 3: Re. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) (Page 11)

The Council carried out the SEA and HRA scoping assessments on the pre-submission version of the neighbourhood plan (2019) and published its report in January 2020. The report concluded that the Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan would not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to SEA. The report also concluded that the Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of internationally designated sites either on its own or in combination with other plans and therefore does not require a Habitat Regulation Assessment to be undertaken.

Page 7 of the January 2020 report states that a further screening assessment may be necessary if there are any major changes to existing policies or if new policies are introduced.

The Council did not consider that the Regulation 16 version (September 2022) of the Neighbourhood Plan included any major changes to existing policies, or added any new policies, that would warrant further screening. The Council is satisfied that the report of January 2020 is up to date and relevant to the Regulation 16 version of the neighbourhood plan.

The Council is happy for the Town Council to amend Section 5 of the draft neighbourhood plan to reflect this.